

Birmingham Anthropological Society

Morgan-Limestone Chapter

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Madison-Huntsville Chapter

Muscle Shoals Chapter

Member of the Eastern State Archaeological Federation

NOTES AND NEWS

THE NEW YEAR starts off with a bang as far as our Newsletter is concerned -- for once we have more material than we can crowd into this issue. You can look forward to it.

LEWIS AND KNEBERG, our good professional friends of the University of Tennessee (who deserve medals for their work with amateurs) contribute the leading article to the Oct. 1959 AMERICAN ANTIQUITY, and were thoughtful enough to provide reprints for members of the Tennessee Archaeological Society. This is an excellent study on THE ARCHAIC CULTURE IN THE MIDDLE SOUTH, beautifully illustrated with representative artifacts and providing an exhaustive trait list. With this you can identify your artifacts and compare them with the distributions at 27 studied sites, which about covers the Archaic in this area.

NOTE OUR OWN JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, Vol V, 1959, Issue 2 - with a color spread! This is in connection with the extensive study (and travels, to judge by the map!) of PETROGLYPHS AND PICTOGRAPHS by Cambron and Waters - who are setting a worthy example for amateurs. The scholarly recording of these perishable and easily vandalized prehistoric enigmas is indeed a worthy service to archaeology. Some day we may discover a key to decipherment, and shall have them on record. And besides pictographs, Cambron and Waters are putting the Alabama Archaeological Society "on the map".

DR. FRANK J. SODAY reported on our activities in Bulletin No. 18, Oct. 1959, of the EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION, which now has a membership of 17 states and Ontario and Quebec, Canada.

MAILING COMMITTEES PLEASE NOTE new members, etc.

Mr. C. P. Scarborough, 2313 Adams Street, Anniston, Ala.

(Paid up for current year, so please send Mr. Scarborough the back issues of the Journal, and put on Newsletter mail list.)

Mr. Frank Morast, 1635 Berkley Circle, Chattanooga 5, Tennessee. (New member effective this issue of Newsletter.) We recall vividly our visit at the Morast home a number of years ago, and one of the best private museums in the country. Nor have we forgotten "Junior"!

Paid 1959 dues: A.B. Craig and family, 2110 Stratford Road, S.E., Decatur, Alabama. Send back issues 1959 Journals and reinstate on Newsletter list.

Change in address: James S. Farris, 1579 Wake Field Terrace, Los Altos, California.

"PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE SIERRA DE TAMAULIPAS, MEXICO", by Richard S. McNeish, address the American Philosophical Society, 104 So. Fifth Street, Philadelphia 6, Pa., \$5.00. Do not be misled by this unassuming title.

This study of 106 ancient occupations of Early Hunters, Early Plant Collectors, and Inipient Agriculturists "may contribute to the solution of the problem of how and why civilizations rise and fall". And the beginning of New World agriculture is placed at an earlier date than Jarmo, the oldest known Old World agricultural site.

"MILFORD'S MEMOIRS" (originally published in Paris, 1802) is for the first time available in English, and will be of great interest for "contact" Indian students. It is a collectors' item, too, as only 1000 copies have been printed. Address Continental Book Co., Inc., 206 Mill St., Marietta, Ga. \$7.50. Milfort live approximately 20 years among the Creek Indians and related tribes.

ALABAMA-TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES. At the last meeting of Tennessee Archaeological Society a committee of which T.M.N. Lewis is a member was appointed to work with the Ala. Archaeological Society on the possibility of publishing certain joint papers. Tenn. at the present time has three papers which are rather large which they would be willing to publish jointly and which are expensive for them to publish by themselves. J.P. Knudsen, Chairman, Jack Cembron and Britt Thompson were appointed on a committee to serve for the Ala. Arch. Soc. and look into the possibilities. (After all, they have been publishing our own papers for years in the TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGIST.)

A POST OFFICE PERMIT to reduce the cost of mailing our Journals and Newsletter was suggested by J.P. Knudsen. Britt Thompson appointed Martin Hullender to look into this possibility.

"ADVENTURES WITH THE MISSING LINK", R.A. Dart, Harper & Bros., \$5.00, makes available for the first time the full account of Dr. Dart's discovery and subsequent discoveries since 1925 of the South African ape-man Australopithecus. Anthropologists have expressed the opinion that his is the most convincing "missing link" so far discovered. When Dr. Dart spoke in Birmingham several years ago he told us no tool had been found in association with Australopithecus, and that the nature of the cave deposits "out of test" geologically made dating uncertain. But now he dates them at a million years and credits them with tools of bone, horn, and teeth (a pre-neolithic culture which he calls osteodontokeratic). It is difficult to see how such tools would be worked without some harder tools such as stone or shell, but if his conclusions hold, then Dart has an older tool-making man than Leadkey's recent report from Tanganyika of a tool-maker 600,000 years old.

SIXTY-FOUR MILLION DOLLARS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY sounds promising - but! This is the amount to be asked in a world-wide appeal this year by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization to build two smaller dams to prevent the inundation of the temples on the island of Philae and the temples of Abu Simbel when the Aswan Dam is built. To us, this is just another chapter in the long sad redomance of "museum" archaeology - while real archaeology goes to pot. These excavated sites can be thoroly photographed, surveyed and studied - and we have learned all they have to tell. Then we shall gladly contribute to an archaeological search for the complete story of our ancestors (with Dart and Leadkey in Africa, Dubois in Java, etc.). With sixty-four million dollars we could learn something.

"ARKANSAS IS FINALLY DOING SOMETHING ABOUT A STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY", Dr. T.M.N. Lewis writes us. "The University has engaged Charles R. McGinsey who got his Ph. D. from Harvard at about the same time as our Mike Coe. He is very efficient and energetic. Mike Coe, who joined our staff at the beginning of the year will depart in two weeks for four months of work on a west coast Costa Rica site. During the summer of 1960 we have set up a project for the Barkley Reservoir area near Dover, Tennessee.... This will be supervised by Coe."

MORGAN-LIMESTONE CHAPTER NEWS
J.P. Zrudsen

Dec. 7, 1959; 7:30 p.m.; City Electric Auditorium, Decatur, Ala. Speaker: S.A. Mosley. Subject: Archery.

Sam's talk will be a repeat of his "Stones & Bones" telecast with the advantage that we will be able to see as well as hear him. Seriously, Sam has done a fine job in assembling fact and fable in the field of Archery. We look forward to a very interesting evening. Hope to see you there.

Businesswise, we shall have election of officers for the coming year. Members present constitute an official quorum for this purpose, but unless we have a really good turnout, the election loses much of its meaning. So, please, come and participate in the election.

BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOC. NEWS

Meeting first Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., B'ham Public Library.

Our Dec., 1959 meeting was one of those "open" affairs where anything can happen, and usually does. It gave us an opportunity to discuss various small items of business, and thises and thats, and gab and comment. We too often forget that we are a Society, not mere spectators.

For the coming year we should like to repeat a bit of gossip which we gratefully borrow from a church bulletin. It seems the whisper was going around that the church as run by a clique. The matter was investigated - and proved to be true! There was a small group of members who came regularly to church, accepted appointments to committees and worked at them, and pitched in with their time, efforts and talents on all occasions. They thought the more they put into their organization, the better it would be and the more they would get out of it. But they were so few that they were often obliged to do more than they could reasonably afford of their time and effort. IT WAS A CLIQUE VERY EASY TO JOIN.

In our Dec., 1959 Stones and Bones we ran a brief filler (as the manuscript was not exactly pouring in) on the Archaeology of Writing - extracting stray bits and pieces from the literature. Our Dec. meeting wound up with our linguist, Dr. A. Gessmann, really going into this matter. He rather had us over a barrel (which we don't mind, it it took that to evoke his contribution) and we want to share this at some length after the holiday rush when our publishing machinery won't be doing Christmas shopping.

We also shall publish a delightful adventure about LIVING ON A SITE right in the heart of a big city, which we received from Mrs. Francis C. Smith of Atlanta, Ga.

At our Jan. meeting we shall vote concerning an expenditure of \$16.00 for maps by the Society. This is not so much a vote on the vast expenditure, but more a vote on whether we wish to cooperate; that is, provide the locations of sites, along with outline information, to be recorded on master maps. This could be made into a really important Society study - with your cooperation. If you do not wish to cooperate, vote NO; if you do wish to cooperate, we have ample funds in the bank.

AND DUES WILL BE DUE at the January meeting. And don't forget we shall elect officers, too. Shall we make a good beginning at a PRODUCTIVE AS WELL AS A PLEASANT NEW YEAR?