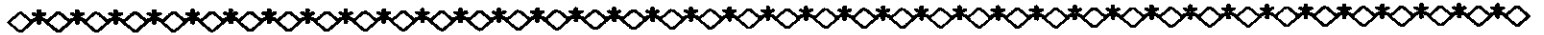


T H E P R O F I L E

Newsletter of the Houston Archeological Society

December 1987

P. O. Box 6751, Houston, Texas 77265 - telephone (713) 523-3431



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HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY NOTE

The HAS library, located on the second floor of the Carriage House at University of St. Thomas, will be open from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. before the meeting on December 11. Come by and take a look.

MEETING NOTICE, DECEMBER 1987

Date: Friday, December 11, 1987
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: University of St. Thomas
M. D. Anderson Hall
Speaker: Dr. Ken Brown
University of Houston
Program: Historical Archeology: Evidence
of Houston's Colonial Past

LABORATORY SCHEDULE

Only one lab this month:

December 14 - Rice University, Archeology Laboratory, Room 103, Sewall Hall, 7-9 p.m. Lab participants will be working on artifacts from two sites: (1) Roger Moore's historic DiverseWorks/Market Square project, (2) one of the prehistoric sites from Fort Bend County recently tested by HAS.

For further information, call David Pettus at 669-3481 (work) or 481-6007 (home).

A FEW COMMENTS

Our congratulations to the Central Texas Archeological Society for hosting an excellent meeting in Waco last month. Excellent papers were presented by members of the Texas Archeological Society. A concurrent symposium on "Mammoths, Mastodons and Human Interaction" was the focal point of the meeting and was well attended. Previous records for annual meeting attendance were broken. Well done, CTAS!

It is that time again. Time to renew your membership in the Houston Archeological Society. Our membership period is the calendar year, and 1988 dues are due during the month of January. We really need everyone's dues as soon as possible. Our membership is down from last year (economic crunch, whatever), and our corporate donations dropped from \$500 to \$50. If we are to preserve the publication schedule of the *Journal* and *The Profile* each month, we must have the support of all members of our society. We also have our TAS annual meeting next October. Our host expenses will be covered by that meeting, but we must carry the financial burden until registrations are paid in October. HAS has several classifications of membership: student memberships are available to full time graduate and undergraduate students, and the \$5.00 student membership fee includes *The Profile* but not the *Journal*; individual memberships are \$15.00; family memberships are \$20.00. Individual and family members receive the *Journal*. For \$30.00 or more you can become a contributing member.

Our thanks to Richie and Eleanor Ebersole for the donation of a bookcase for our

library. Thanks also to Richie, Sheldon Kindall and David Pettus for moving and installing the bookcase. By the next meeting it will be full of books and it will greatly relieve our shelf space problem.

We have a very long list of HAS members who are assisting with the Museum of Fine Arts excavation program. We had a great turnout last Saturday for Family Day. Approximately 90 adults and about 100 children were given a scientific view of archeology. This is very good public relations for our society. All participants enjoyed it and many expressed their appreciation of the tremendous amount of work that has gone into the production of the artifacts and the simulated excavation. Many thanks to everyone!

Thanks also to William Earl Haskell, Melissa and Julie Groening, Laurie Newendorp, Sharon Feeney, Muriel Walter and Cynthia Stevens for bringing refreshments in October and November.

We are pleased to announce that William Haskell has agreed to take over the job of book sales for our society. We will have the sales table up in December. Do some Christmas shopping!

Joan Few
HAS President

HAS MEMBERS SPEAKING TO OTHER GROUPS

Alan Duke gave a talk "Prehistoric Inhabitants of the Pasadena Area, their Habitation Sites, Tools and Weapons" to approximately 75 members of the Pasadena Historical Society on November 3. The Pasadena Historical Society is a very active group dedicated to recording and preserving the history of Pasadena, and this was their first program on regional prehistory.

Sheldon Kindall addressed the Galveston Archeological Society at its November 12 meeting at the Galveston County Museum. Sheldon's topic was "The Lost French Fort, Champ d'Asile."

CAPT: TODAY'S TECHNOLOGIES CAN PRESERVE OUR PAST (from *Bulletin of the Society for American Archaeology*, November 1987, Vol. 5, No. 5)

CAPT is the national Coalition for Applied Preservation Technology. It is a group of professionals, individuals, institutions, federal agencies, and universities whose goal is to establish a multi-disciplinary National Center for Preservation Technology.

Such a center was one of the major recommendations made in the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment's report, Technologies for Prehistoric and Historic Preservation (1986). Among other things, OTA recommended creation of a national center that could facilitate the transfer of technologies to the preservation field. For more information write to CAPT, c/o Fore-sight Science & Technology, Inc., 2000 P Street NW, Suite 305, Washington, DC 20036.

CAPT seeks a broad based national constituency. Local, as well as national, support is needed; encouraging participation of people in all cultural resource fields. Your interest, expertise, and advice are vital to our efforts. CAPT's intent is to build a coalition that does not compete with other entities, but complements and assists them to achieve the level and quality of preservation so needed to protect our national heritage.

FROM THE MEDALLION

The Texas Antiquities Code and statutes of the Texas Historical Commission, effective September 1, 1987, now are available for interested readers. The THC statutes, for the first time, include statutes governing county historical commissions.

"Preserving Cemeteries," one in a series of preservation guidelines produced by the THC, recently has been revised and updated. To receive free copies of either of these publications, contact the THC, P. O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711.

ARCHEOLOGY OF THE PHILISTINES

Since at least 1869, when Matthew Arnold employed the term in *Culture and Anarchy*, "Philistine" has been recognized in the English-speaking world as a derogation sometimes used to refer to a person preoccupied by materialism and deficient in an understanding of and appreciation for art, literature, or other aspects of liberal culture. The archeological picture that's beginning to emerge of the Philistines is somewhat at odds with that image.

Excavations at Tel Migne (the Biblical city of Ekron), an Iron Age site and one of five major Philistine cities in Israel, are revealing a picture of fairly advanced city planning. Archeologists suggest that the Philistines may even have used some sort of zoning regulations to maintain the strict separation of living quarters and public building areas from an industrial area where extensive olive-oil processing factories were located. More than 100 olive oil installations have been excavated so far.

The remains of Ekron cover more than 60 acres, only about 2% of which has been excavated. It is estimated that more than 6,000 people lived in the city, whose economy was probably based on the processing and international trade of olive oil.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) are properties determined to be of national historic significance by the National Park Service. Since 1966 NHLs have been folded into the National Register of Historic Places program, but NHLs are still considered by historians and archeologists to be an honor roll of the nation's most important sites and structures. Properties that are significant in local or state history or prehistory can be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but a property must be determined to have significance to the nation as a whole before it can become

a NHL. Two NHLs are located in Harris County: San Jacinto Battlefield and the USS Texas.

Several archeological sites in Texas are recognized as NHLs. In some cases, such as the Alamo, Mission Concepcion, and Forts Brown, Richardson and Concho, the NHL site is historic with an archeological component. Among prehistoric sites in Texas, only four are listed as NHLs: the Plainview Site in Hale County, the Lubbock Lake Site in Lubbock County, Landergin Mesa in Oldham County, and the Harrell Site in Young County.

NHL status, like National Register status, offers little protection to listed properties that are not federally owned. As with National Register listing, the NHL owner relinquishes no property rights.

PRESERVATION SUCCESSES IN ARCHEOLOGY

Santa Fe, New Mexico, has recently adopted a new law to protect archeological sites within the city. Developers are now required to conduct detailed site survey and, depending on what is found, to develop excavation and mitigation plans before the city will permit construction. Plans must be approved by a local archeology commission. The ordinance is seen as a major victory for preservation, and New Mexico archeologists are touting it to other communities as an example of what can be done to prevent destruction of the archeological record by the forces of modern development.

In May, the nonprofit Trust for Public Land, with the help of a loan from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, purchased 4.8 acres of the 6.1-acre tract in Tallahassee, Florida that contains the recently-discovered 16th century site associated with the Hernando de Soto expedition. Excavations at the site were undertaken last March by Calvin Jones, an archeologist with the state of Florida, who expected to find evidence of a 17th century Spanish mission. Artifacts recovered include links of Spanish armor chain mail, crossbow arrow tips, copper coins, and glass chevron beads.

CLAIM OF OLDEST BOOMERANG

Polish archeologists recently announced the discovery of what is claimed to be the world's oldest known boomerang, contained in prehistoric deposits dated to about 23,000 years ago. The artifact, however, is made from a curved piece of mammoth tusk, and is much too delicate to risk the effects of testing its aerodynamic properties, the only sure way of distinguishing between a true boomerang and a non-returning throwing stick.

THE HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation created for the purposes of promoting a public exchange of information and ideas about archeology, fostering an interest in the science of archeology, supporting the publication of archeological information, and sponsoring educational projects and activities about archeology. Regular meetings are held on the second Friday of each month (except June), at 7:30 p.m., in M. D. Anderson Hall at the University of St. Thomas.

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