

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

The following article was sent to the Editor by Elbert Hilliard, Department of Archives and History, and is copied from ROCKY ECHOES, Volume VIII, #8, August, 1968, Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society Newsletter, who copied it from ESCONI, July August, 1968, the bulletin of the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois. The article was most appropriate for rock collectors but is equally so for amateur archaeologists. Read it carefully and reconsider some of your collecting habits. The archaeology of Mississippi is not for long - unless we all help to preserve it.

THE DINOSAURS ARE BECOMING EXTINCT!!!

Ask any school boy, and he will tell you that the dinosaurs became extinct about 75,000,000 years ago. Ask a Vertebrate Paleontologist, and he'll tell you that the dinosaurs are in dire straits today. The depredations of Man are destroying our fauna.

In the case of the dinosaur, it is not through the action of mighty hunters with time machines, but of ROCKHOUNDS WITH HAMMERS! Every day, irreplaceable specimens of great potential scientific, educational and exhibit value are hauled home in the amateur's car trunk or camper -- usually without accompanying field notes to identify the geographic or geologic site of the discovery. Most of these vanish for years into midas-like 'collections' -- under the bed or in the garage -- to be discarded eventually by disinterested heirs. Sometimes the specimens are used to decorate the hobbyists' garden as stepping stones, path borders or fireplace trim. Others disappear into lapidarists' shops to reappear as jewelry, paper weights or doo-dads. But let's be fair. Most of those amateurs don't even suspect (or can't imagine) that any of their specimens would be interesting or important to the scientists. Fortunately, there are a few (painfully few) of them who keep proper records, neatly label and display their collections at home and at club shows and country fairs, and periodically invite a scientist to review their collections. Worthy specimens are placed in the Science Museum collections and the amateur collector has made another scientific contribution.

The author is not a wild-eyed calamity-howler (hmm, on second thought, maybe he is) but a scientist who has devoted most of his life to the study of the life of the past through the fossil record. During most of his career, he was plagued by the problems of too little time and too little money. Now, like all his fellow paleontologists, he is faced with the destructive force of the hobbyist. Don't get me wrong! I think it's great that people now have time and the inclination to go outdoors and roam the wild country with a purpose. Certainly it's better than TV-hypnosis, holding up service stations, or stealing hubcaps for a hobby. The problems come from the uninformed and the unminded who either don't know or care that they are destroying important scientific material.

At a recent meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, of the continent's Vertebrate Paleontologists, one of the chief topics of discussion was the problem of protecting scientific material from vandals. All of us had horrible examples to cite, although the major problem is west of the Missouri River, . . . where the greatest number of Vertebrate fossils are concentrated, where dinosaurs may be found, and where the amateur fossil hunter is in full cry. Unfortunately, things are so bad that many of us no longer publish our localities in our scientific papers; if we do so, this information is used by the amateur, and our localities are looted and destroyed. This self-influenced, but necessary, form of partial censorship hampers the work of the other paleontologists.

Let me give a few examples of our problem. Some years ago, I took a prospective angel (museums depend on angels, too) to a well-known 3,500,000 year fossil deposit on the bluffs overlooking the Snake River in south-west Idaho. You may see beautiful mounts of zebra-like horse skeletons from this site in most of the country's leading museums. I wanted to open the quarry to get material for exhibit and study. We needed specimens from this locality to fill out our bone library for this particular age. When we arrived at the quarry site, I found a complete horse skeleton lying on the ground; no piece was larger than a man's hand -- and everything was there except the teeth. Someone had chopped out the skeleton and saved only the teeth for his private "collection" or to make souvenirs for his friends. I consider boiling in oil a just reward for such vandals!

James Jensen of the Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, lives right on the edge of Dinosaur Country, and his howls of anguish over the problem can be heard throughout the land. Just recently, an articulated skeleton of the giant dinosaur, SAMARASAURUS, was found in this area. This giant stood even taller than the famous BRONTOSAURUS. Jensen was able to collect the hind foot before winter set in. As it was a very isolated spot in central Utah, he thought it would be safe through the winter. Jensen waited till spring for an opportunity to go back with proper equipment. When he returned, he found someone had ripped out the vertebral column and broken it to pieces. This was an unique specimen, as it was the first record of an articulated partial skeleton. All other known skeletons are composites of several individuals.

There are many more examples that I could give you, but why go on? It's bad enough that Utah Paleontologists shudder every time they see a camper with an out-of-state license go by. They are convinced that it's another load of rockhounds out after dinosaurs' bones for jewelry.

What can be done? Legislation and laws aren't the answer. The Antiquities Act which covers collecting on Federal lands and the destruction of scientific materials has been on the books for years and most states have similar laws covering state lands. All these laws seem to do is stop the scientist from collecting without a permit, while the amateur goes on in, grabs and leaves.

EDUCATION seems to be the only answer. Of course, we will never be able to reach the irresponsible person who is only interested in his or her "hobby" and couldn't care less about science and the rest of the public.

Fossil vertebrates are important scientifically; they are relatively rare; and only an expert can tell whether or not they represent a new sort of animal or something that is common in the record. However, the amateur can supply **IMPORTANT ASSISTANCE** to the museum and the professional scientist by helping in field work and at the laboratory.

A former amateur collector (who knew enough to keep proper records and turn his material over to the museum) led a dinosaur hunting party in Montana last summer. This was the third summer that we hired him for this job and the fifth all-season trip he has taken, with or for the museum staff Projected plans will keep his summers busy as long as he wishes to spend them with us. So far, he has had three heretofore unknown species of fossil animals named in his honor -- what better way to achieve immortality than to have your name in scientific literature for as long as science exists on this planet?

Why don't you contact your local museum and see if they can use your skills and knowhow? We'd like to welcome you as a partner into a fascinating and useful world!

by: J.R. Macdonald, Senior Curator
of Paleontology
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Natural History

ARE YOU TIRED OF BOOK REVIEWS?

If so! Why not send in some news articles? We would love to have some.

The Editor was talking recently with John Connaway who was once editor of this NEWSLETTER. There was a remarkable similarity in our laments about the general membership response and participation to requests for articles or information for the NEWSLETTER. The Editor has also talked with Tom Koehler and Jim Key from time to time, both past editors, and their comments were much the same. Almost no one sends in material!

It thus appears that we have little interest in the membership of the Mississippi Archaeological Association for items which are placed in the NEWSLETTER. This may well reflect the quality of the NEWSLETTER and its Editor. This Editor will readily admit of his poor qualifications and will happily and rapidly turn the duty over to anyone who steps forward with the desire for editorship. Any volunteers?

In the mean time while that volunteer steps forward, and I say "that" volunteer as I do not expect a clamoring crowd of eager ones, I must continue to put out a NEWSLETTER as such. I have, in the last three months received three letters commenting on the NEWSLETTER. One of these pointed out some errors! I was delighted! Someone had read my NEWSLETTER!

Actually more than three people have read the NEWSLETTER as I have personally had several comments on it while talking with people. All good!

It remains, however, your NEWSLETTER! You can make it much better by sending in just a short article, a drawing of a point, a question, a drawing of a pot sherd, anything! You may point out a magazine article, send in a paper clipping, or a review of a good book or something. We will print it! The important thing is to have members participate. Try it!

You will enjoy the NEWSLETTER much more.

SPEAKING OF FOSSILS

What we thought was an April Fool's joke came the first day of April. It was no joke, however, Mr. Harold Garry, Soil Conservation Service representative of Forest, Mississippi, called this office and reported that the skeleton of a large animal had been found on a farm near Forest. It seems that one of the farm ponds of Mr. L.V. Huff had overflowed from recent rains and in the process created a serious erosional ditch. In the cut was the vertebral column of a large animal. The Editor received the call and reported the find to Dr. E.E. Russell, Paleontologist, MSU, as the find probably fell into his category, not archaeology. Dr. Russell said "Oh! That's a 'bacilisar'us', formerly called a 'ziglidon'!!!!!! Well, to this archaeologist that didn't mean a thing, other than some kind of big, BIG, CRITTER! Dr. Russell explained that since it was coming out of the "Jackson Formation" it was most likely a bacilisar'us. Well! That did not inform me of what a "bacilisar'us" was. So I asked again. It is a fossil whale, the ancestor to the modern whale. It is approximately 30-40 million years old. Too early for an archaeologist, but certainly too important to ignore. Mrs. Pam Landers and I drove down to look at it. It was worth saving and studying so there will be a whaling trip in the near future.

THE MISSISSIPPI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

John Connaway and Sam McGahey have been continuing the activities of the Mississippi Archaeological Survey this past month. Early in March they received a call from L.B. Jones that the big mound at Powell Bayou, south of Drew, Mississippi in Sunflower County, was being pulled down. David Smith, Drew, called Mr. Robert Stancil who called Jones. The landowner, Mr. Otha Shurden was leveling the mound as it was thought there was no need for it. When he got down to a certain level it just happened that David Smith showed up and recognized the remains of a house or some kind of a structure. This set off the chain reaction which has resulted in some very interesting information. Daub and charcoal showed up at the time David was there. John Connaway and Sam McGahey arrived and began to clear the area off. There was a lot of overburdened but enough was cleared to show that there was at least three superimposed houses. L.B. Jones talked with Mr. Tom Cook at Parchment and he brought over a number of prisoners who very expertly and quickly removed the overburden. John and Sam have been working there now for about five weeks. They have recovered several good samples for charcoal one or more of which have been sent to Dr. J.B. Griffin, Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, for RC dating. A large sample of corn cobs have been sent to Hugh Cutler, Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, for identification.

The houses are rather large, trash pits have been found along with hearths. I have been told, but it remains to be verified, that the particular surface of the mound on which the houses were found, had a light palisaded fence around the summit of the mound. Someone special must have lived there or the buildings were used for purposes necessarily screened off or protected from the rest of the area.

One might say there goes the Powell Bayou Mound. Not so! Mr. Shurden became so interested in what the boys were doing and finding, and, after the importance of saving our archaeological features was explained to him, decided to set the area of the mound and some more aside as a park. We are grateful to Mr. Shurden for his cooperation and interest in our work.

This is a beautiful example of the cooperation of the members of the Mississippi Archaeological Association, the Mississippi Archaeological Survey of the Department of Archives and History and land owners. We have done it! We can do it again! And save more of the sites in the future than we have in the past. This is what the Archaeological Association was organized for. Your cooperation is essential.

Special thanks go to Mr. Shurden, Mr. Smith, Mr. Stancil, Mr. Cook and his men, and to everyone else who cooperated.

Starting later this month and through May, John and Sam are to conduct an archaeological survey in Hinds County.

WHAT GLEN JOHNSON REPORTED AS "BAD NEWS"

And it is! Glen recently reported that the mound at Long Lake in southeast Quitman county has been leveled. He learned about the leveling just before Easter. It seems that two men from Batesville had been down there the next to the last Sunday of March. Apparently the leveling had taken place only the week before. The leveling had scraped down to an area full of burials. The men dug out most of one burial that had been badly damaged by the scraper. Glen said "I chewed them out" for digging when they did not know what they were doing. Glen went down and examined the site. He reports that the hole the men dug was reopened and the remainder of the damaged burial and a semi-flexed burial removed. A large collection of sherds was picked up from the surface of the mound and in the spread dirt.

So! We have lost another one. At least we got a small amount of information from it. We have a collection of sherds. Glen did not give any indication as to the types of pottery found but these will be turned over to the lab before long. We can report on this later.

Keep your eyes open. There are more mounds and sites going down and if we can delay the destruction until they can be investigated we'll do it. The Mississippi Archaeological Survey and the rest of us are depending on your quick action and watchdog eyes. We can lick this problem if we all work together.

SITE REPORTS

Mrs. Laura J. Bowers of Canton has, with the help of several members turned in a large list of Madison County sites. Where is yours?

TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR HELP

Below is a letter which has been received in this office. John Connaway received it originally. He forwarded on to this office with the idea that the Mississippi Archaeological Survey write in their support. This we will do but it also behoves us to consider it from the point that it is a society attempt, one that is quite similar to the attempt that all of the members of this Association went through in supporting the development of the Mississippi Archaeological Survey. If you are moved, and I sincerely hope that you are, write the Governor of Tennessee to support the program. Remember! A lot of good letters are needed, so sit right down and write him.

TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Your support and influence is needed in order for the Tennessee General Assembly to pass a bill for the preservation of the archaeological resources of this state. Tennessee is rich in archaeological resources with an estimated 10,000 sites within its borders containing evidence of aboriginal man's cultural development dating from at least 9,000 B.C. Many historic and archaeological treasures are unsurveyed or undiscovered due to the lack of a coordinated and adequate program and are, in fact, being lost because of unscientific exploitation, highway construction, flooding of reservoirs and by the general advance of modern man. To derive maximum benefit from the wealth of archaeological material within the State, an organization with state-wide authority and adequate funds must be devised. Legislation is being prepared for this purpose.

Briefly, the proposed bill establishes a Division of Archaeology and the position of State Archaeologist within the Department of Conservation of the State of Tennessee. It provides for the survey, preservation, and/or excavation and study of historical and pre-historical archaeological sites; and, for the recovery, acquisition, display and preservation of archaeological material. An Advisory Council is created. The Council, which serves without pay, is composed of three anthropologists from the University of Tennessee, Memphis State University and Vanderbilt, respectively, and one representative each from the Tennessee Archaeological Society and the Tennessee Historical Commission. In order that sites and artifacts may be protected for the benefit of the public, it is made a misdemeanor to disturb or injure any object or site on State owned or controlled land. Upon recommendation by the State Archaeologists and consent of the owner, public and private sites may be placed in the Tennessee Register of Historic Sites. The Division is authorized to accept grants furthering the state program in archaeology.

The importance of state programs has long been recognized by the Congress of the United States and Federal funds will be available for certain important archaeological projects after the state program is established. Your help is critical. If the program is to be enacted during the term of the legislature, the Governor and legislators must know of your support. Every effort is being made to get the bill introduced before the April 24 deadline. If you believe it would benefit the people of Tennessee to conserve our pre-historical heritage, PLEASE ACT TODAY. A note to the Governor and

your own area legislator from you and your friends CAN bring about this much needed program in Tennessee.

Yours very truly

J.H. Polhemus
President

THE STATUS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY

In the February and March Newsletters we included articles regarding the subject in the heading above. This information is taken from A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF THE STATUS OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY, September 1968, by Dr. Charles R. McGimsey III, Hester A. Davis, and James B. Griffin, Arkansas Archaeological Survey, Coordinating Office.

This month, we continue with a section on the Baytown developments. Once again we refer you to the Table produced on page 6, Newsletter IV-2.

The Baytown Period is variously referred to as that period in which post-early ceramics occur but which are also pre-Mississippian. This is a very loose and much too general definition. It is much like the use of "mound builders" when we know much more about mound building, mound use, and the people who built them. We could much better break the general group into more specific units with much more meaning to culture and historic reconstruction. The Baytown Period is sometimes called "Burial Mound II" which follows "Burial Mound I" or the early ceramic (discussed last month). The Baytown Period is more often broken down into two sub-periods, Early Baytown or Marksville-Hopewell and Late Baytown. It is in the latter that the so called Deasonville culture falls. This is a complicated separation when one gets below the sub-period separation simply because there is so little known about the more specific cultural developments.

Early Baytown or Marksville-Hopewell, 100 B.C. to A.D. 300

Hopewellian Culture

About 90 per cent of the information on this development is from surface survey in the alluvial valley. There is some information on the culture from northern Mississippi also. A few mounds have been excavated and a few stratigraphy pits placed at Marksville, Crooks, Anderson Landing, Lake Cormorant, Mabin, Manny, Alma Brown, Helena Crossing and perhaps a few others. No real site excavations.

The diagnostic characteristics are based primarily on ceramic horizon styles, particularly zoned dentate stamping and zoned rocker stamping. A few other items could be indicative (see below).

Basis for temporal placement is primarily on ceramic horizon styles. No C14 dates (?) or at least not enough of them. Horizon styles are pretty well tied in with the Illinois Hopewell material. At Coral Snake on the Sapine, Hopewellian material was dated (C14) at 50 B.C.

Geographic distribution and ecological correlations. A large number of sites is a striking difference from earlier periods where sites are few and often far between (you will find a locality with several sites and a great distance to the next locality). The Ohio channel was the main stream of communication between north and south. In Arkansas, while there has been little survey work, there probably is also an absence of recognizable sites of this period, i.e. sites occupied during this period don't have identifiable Hopewellian characteristics. Sites in southeast Arkansas apparently are tied most closely with northeast Louisiana. Few known sites in southeast Missouri; none north of Advance lowland. A few sites along the Kaskaskia in southwest Illinois. Mississippi Archeological Survey field work in the area north of Clarksdale and east of Helena show a number of Hopewellian sites. There are a number of Hopewellian sites scattered across north Mississippi in the hill country and are often referred to as Miller I and/or II.

Characteristics of the culture are divided between ceramics and nonceramic traits. Ceramics are the most distinctive, having flat, generally round bases. Squaring of bases in the lower portions of the valley occurs. In the lower portions also, tetrapod (four legged) bases carry over from Tchefuncte (and Deptford), but are later in Illinois. More vessel shapes, especially eccentric, are associated with the characteristic decorations in the lower valley than in Illinois. Fine cross-hatching in the "core" area is early, coarse cross-hatching is later. Clay platform and effigy pipes occur at Marksville and Crooks. The non-ceramic traits are in general not well known. There are rare Hopewell blades, the Snyders Points, are rather common in the Illinois Hopewell while many of the types common to Tchula and Tchefuncte appear to carry over in the south. In southeast Missouri there is copper and red ochre, and possibly a deer skull headdress with antlers. Copper "Pan Pipes" appear to be rather late.

Nothing is known of the Hopewellian houses. Those in the Illinois Valley and around St. Louis appear to be circular. Circular houses occur in southeast Missouri with a complex (Barnes Ceramics) that is believed to be in part contemporary with Hopewell. Fairly common are low conical earthen mounds. At Crooks, a great many burials (1200) were found in a mound. Also a mound with burials at Marksville has been described. The Helena Crossing mound, with its log tombs very similar to the Illinois material, is unique for the Valley. There are log-lined tombs in southeast Missouri, but these could be later in time. Burials are usually extended or bundled. Some with grave goods, consisting of pottery, points, plummets, ear spools (rare), pipes, boatstones, galena, copper, and hematite.

Marksville is encircled by an earthwork. This appears to a degree in Ohio and its occurrence with Woodland complexes appears to be widespread but not common. There is very little data on site plans and ceremonial earthworks.

The economic base of Hopewellian culture is obscure. A corn husk and curcubit seed at the Marksville sites, some corn from Chucalissa date A.D. 350 with clay-tempered pottery is about all of the evidence. Considerable evidence for the use of wild plants having large meaty seeds. It is speculated that with an increase in the

number of sites, and a general larger size to the villages, would suggest a larger population that may have had to be supported on agricultural products.

Sites without the diagnostic ceramic horizon styles are now designated as earlier or later than this Period. There is evidence of considerable regional variation, all tied together by the distinct ceramic horizon styles. In Mississippi and Louisiana sites occupied during this Period tend to have continuous occupation from this time on through succeeding periods.

Baytown Period, A.D. 300 to 700

Baytown Culture

Principle sources of data are from Batiste, Greenhouse, Deasonville, Troyville, plus stratigraphy pits at Manny, Rose, and Grenada. No adequately excavated sites exist.

Diagnostic characteristics are Baytown Plain, Mulberry Creek Cord Marked, and some Larto Red Filled pottery. Decoration on pottery characteristically rare. What occurs appears to be related to but degenerated from Marksville. There is an overwhelming increase in cord marked pottery.

Basis for temporal placement is that time between the distinctive Hopewellian (the Hopewell bird) motif and the later Coles Creek decorations. One C14 date from Troyville of A.D. 700 is consistent for late material.

As presently defined geographic distribution extends throughout the Valley. Sites are located on meanders in areas occupied from this period on; but a lot of single occupation sites occur.

Characteristics of the culture: Ceramic are generally uninteresting. A little Withers Fabric Impressed still left, and a little check-stamped, either left or just beginning to come in once again. Generally a high percentage of cord marking. Pottery is thicker than later types and is all clay tempered. Non-ceramic traits are atlatl (spear thrower) weights as boatstones (continue on at Spiro at least until A.D. 1000). Bone atlatl hooks from a site in Mississippi. Greenstone celts are rather common. A few deer bone tools, no distinctive projectile points or at least none have been defined.

Houses appear to be circular at Deasonville, Dumond, and at Natchez Trace. At Dumond a central fireplace occurred. The house had four interior supports. Earthworks consist mainly of low conical mounds but essentially we know nothing about them. No pyramidal mounds have been found that can be attributed to the Baytown culture. Burials are rather common. Those at Greenhouse were generally extended. Those at Troyville also extended. Grave goods in general rare or absent. At Grenada, Mississippi, a shell bowl and shell gorget with an extended burial and one semi-flexed burial was found. Hoecake, Missouri, has log-lined tombs with a high percentage of cord marked pottery in the mound fill.

Site plans in the central Yazoo Basin often doughnut-shaped shell middens, 200 feet in diameter (houses in a circle?), with a low conical mound forming a part of the ring. A lot of small single occupation sites, with low conical mounds, but none dug. At Dumond houses are placed in an irregular manner and distance along the edge of a bayou. Otherwise no real idea of site plan or density of sites.

The economic base in the lower Yazoo, in Late Baytown, has the only important use of shell in the Valley in terms of consumption. Probably good continuity in settlement and economy up through Mississippian. Very little known of any agriculture but it must have been present in order to support an increased population. A large use of fish and water fowl appears but remains to be substantiated.

The Baytown Period is roughly equivalent to Phillips, Ford and Griffin's Middle Baytown. Predominance of Baytown Plain may be a late characteristic at least to the south while cord marking is common further to the north up to 90 + percent of the ceramics. North of Cairo, Illinois, this is the time of Raymond, Lewis, the beginning of Jersey Bluff, and before Pulcher.

A LAST MINUTE NOTE ON THE SPRING MEETING

The Newsletter is gradually put together and when we think we have enough material to make one, we start! Frankly, this is just fill! But also, it is late enough to make some more noise about the Spring Meeting. It will be held on May 11 rather than the first Sunday of May (May 4). The Capitol City Chapter, Jackson, Mississippi, will host the meeting. If you have any suggestions for the meeting fire them in as soon as you can. In the mean time we will be making some smoke here also. See you in Jackson! There will be more on the meeting in a special letter.

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SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

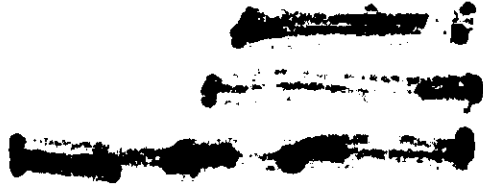
The 34th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology meets May 1-3, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Host Institutions are the Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Public Museum. Anyone interesting in attending may write the Department of Anthropology at the University for information. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Central States Anthropological Society. There will be a number of general sessions on archaeological techniques, North American, Central American, and South American archaeology, theory, and others.

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

T. Patrick Culbert, Secretary

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Since you have an active interest in archaeology, I am pleased to extend to you an invitation to join the Society for American Archaeology.

Founded in 1935, the Society is the only national organization devoted to the publication of archaeological findings from the entire Western Hemisphere. By disseminating the latest research results and current advances in archaeological theory and method, we hope to stimulate the progress of scientific archaeology. Everyone interested in such progress, whatever his vocation or the area of his archaeological research, is welcomed to membership.

For the annual dues of \$10.00, members receive subscription to the quarterly journal American Antiquity, and to the Memoirs of the Society for American Archaeology, a series of longer and more detailed reports issued one or more times yearly. Members are also eligible to attend and participate in the annual meetings of the Society held each year during the first week in May. The 1969 annual meetings will be held in Milwaukee; the 1970 meetings, in Mexico City.

If you would like to join the Society for American Archaeology, you may write to me for a membership application.

Yours truly,

T. Patrick Culbert

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