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IM THIS ISSUE

A Note From The Newsletter Editor.....2

Minutes of the LAS Executive Committee Meeting, 8/27/83.....3

The Tchoupitoulas Question, Rhonda J. Fabian.....5

The Southeastern Archaeological Conference.....9

The Caddo Conference Meeting Announcement.....10

Melvin P. Glory.....10

The Grand Village of the Matchez, Revisited.....11

Chapter News

Delta.....12

Northwest.....12

Southwest (Imperial Calcasieu).....13

1984 Dues Notice.....15

T-Shirts and Baseball Caps.....15

The LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER is published three times a year for the Society by the Archaeological and Cultural Program of the University of New Orleans.

The Editorship of the Newsletter is about to change, so for the present, send all notes, news and other communications regarding future inclusions in the Newsletter to Brian Duhe at the LAS Office.

Back issues of LAS Bulletins, and LAS Newsletters are available from Brian Duhe, Louisiana Archaeological Society, Post Office Drawer G, Reserve LA 70084.

Until the 1984 LAS Annual Business Meeting, Louisiana Archaeological Society dues and communications regarding society business should be addressed to Emily Vincent, LAS Treasurer. After that meeting, dues and communications should be forwarded to Brian Duhe and the LAS address.

Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the Editor and do not necessarily reflect Society policy.

MINUTES OF THE LAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 27, 1983 - Prehistoric Indian Museum - Marksville

A NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This is my last column in this place. Effective as soon as this issue is in the mail, I will no longer be Newsletter Editor. I have submitted my resignation to President-Elect Jeane. As of this writing, I have not yet heard whether he has found a replacement. Until such time as the new editor is in place, I suggest sending all news, etc. to Brian Dube and the new LAS permanent address. The Newsletter Editorship has been interesting; sometimes rewarding, sometimes not. At any rate and for a variety of reasons, it is time for me to move on to other projects; some new and some long overdue in their completion.

It has been a strange Fall. The semester was relatively easy, the students bright and chipper, the weather schizoid (but tending to the warm side). I was able to finish a few projects that have been lying around and have submitted them for pre-publication review. I have eight figures to draw on another and it will be finished also. Boyle Gertjesen and I have an article of Ycheruncte ceramics. PETER ARCHAEOLGY 2(1) on the technology of Ycheruncte ceramics. Peter Sorant and I have another article accepted for AMERICAN ANTIQUITY 49(3) concerning an easy method to accurately calculate the volume of any given mound or midden given a topographic map. An article written by myself with Kass Byrd and Bill Adger is soon to appear in the SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY BULLETIN. This one concerns the Louisiana Indian Youth and Archaeology Project which was co-sponsored by the Louisiana Inter-Tribal Council and the Division of Archaeology, hosted here at UNO during the Summer of 1981. I have a few other small projects to finish, then I begin the revision of the Oak Island site report which I expect to keep me busy for the next few months.

Some of the most exciting news I have heard is from Jon Gibson. The preliminary results of his mapping project at Poverty Point suggest that much of our thinking on that site will be changed. I hope that he will give us a preview at the Annual Meeting.

Balloons and final arrangements for the Lafayette Meetings will be sent in separate mailings.

On a sad note, we have lost a long-standing member and good friend. Melvin Glory of the Delta Chapter died in October.

Although I am leaving this column, I promise to be a regular contributor to the new Newsletter and give the new editor what ever help that I might. I look forward to seeing everyone in Lafayette.

Present were: President, Bill Baker  
President-Elect, David R. Jeane  
Corresponding Secretary, Debbie Woodiel  
Treasurer, Emily Vincent  
Recording Secretary, Rosie Walker  
Newsletter Editor, Rick Shenkel  
Bulletin Editor, Jon Gibson  
LAS Archivist, Brian Dube  
State Archaeologist, Kass Byrd  
Baton Rouge, Duke Rivet  
Imperial Calcasieu, Joe Frank  
Northeast, Reza Jones  
At Large, Clarence Webb  
At Large, John Guy

The meeting was called to order by President Baker. The minutes of the previous meeting were dispensed with as they were mailed to the Executive Board members just a week prior to the meeting.

Emily Vincent gave the Treasurer's Report. Due to the lowered interest rate, the account at Pelican Homestead was closed and the money will be placed in another bank, possibly near Reserve, for better investment. There was a total of \$23.00 earned on the Pelican Homestead account. Report was given in regard to the donations for the special program for the Tenth Annual Meeting. Several outstanding contributions have been made toward this purpose. Emily particularly noted the Generosity of Dr. C. Webb for his donation of \$1000, as well as other large donations. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as read.

The Newsletter Report was given by Rick Shenkel. He hopes the Newsletter will be out in the next two weeks. Rick feels that it is time for someone else to take charge of the Newsletter. His staff at the University is continually changing and major cutbacks make printing the Newsletter difficult. Bill commented on the lack of enthusiasm in general and asked for suggestions as to who may be able to take the job. There are two problems to consider: news gathering and production. Kass suggested that if every chapter sent its news on a regular basis, one of the problems would be eliminated. The deadlines for the next two Newsletters will be mid-September and mid-November. Rick will complete the year as Newsletter Editor.

Bill welcomed at this time our new Representative At Large, John Guy.

completion of the next two Bulletins that are presently in press.

The 1983 Field School Report was given. The Lake Ste. Agnes site is inaccessible due to flooded conditions of the road and fields. The Nick site is not available. It was decided that the Field School will not be held this year. In place of a field school, a listing of opportunities of field work throughout the state will be offered.

#### MEM BUSINESS

David Jeanne reported that a donation of an Archaeological/Anthropological reference library has been donated by Larry Head of Texarkana, Texas. The journals are to be sent to Reserve. An acknowledgment of donation was requested. It was suggested that the benefactor get the collection appraised and Brian would acknowledge receipt.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosie Walker

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#### The Tchoupitoulas Question

Rhonda H. Fabian

An unpronounceable street on a New Orleans' city map, a Mardi Gras social club, an old plantation house... each share the name Tchoupitoulas. Yet, since the first European settlers claimed residence along the Mississippi, the origin of this strange word has remained a mystery. Many will agree that the name once belonged to an Indian tribe. Where that tribe came from, how they lived and what became of them has been a matter of conjecture and controversy.

"In the interest of history...it is to be hoped this discussion will be followed up with a view to determining the exact name of this Indian group and to ascertain its later history. It was probably extinguished in the subsequent clashes between the white and the red men of this locality. This inquiry might also settle just when the modern "Tchoupitoulas" took the place of the old "Chapitoulas". The Louisiana Historical Quarterly will gladly print any paper seeking to elucidate this question" (H.P. Dart, Louisiana Historical Quarterly 7:316, 1924).

At the beginning of European settlement of southeastern Louisiana-

Corresponding Secretary, Debbie Woodiel, gave the membership report. At this time, there are 186 regular members, 40 associate members, 9 student members, 19 life members, 20 institutional members and 1 sustaining member for a total of 275 members. It was suggested that the membership list be printed in the Newsletter as a reminder to pay dues for the year. Alternatively, it was decided to mark each unpaid member's mailing label with a red "X" on the mailing of the Summer Newsletter.

Archivist, Brian Duke, gave his report. He is experiencing a problem of the use of the permanent address. There is such an inflow of checks to the new address, he feels that it may be feasible to open an account in Reserve so there won't be such a bulk postal exchange of checks. He also has a need for a petty cash account. Motion was made that the financial transfer/transition of the duties and responsibilities of treasurer and corresponding secretary commence in such a fashion as is convenient to all parties involved so as to be effective by the time of the annual meeting in January. Motion was seconded and carried.

Rick brought up the question as to the location of the Corporate Home of the LAS. It was noted that as far as the IRS is concerned, the address is the Treasurer's address. When a corporate address is established, application for a bulk mailing permit can be made. This action will greatly reduce the cost of Newsletters and Bulletins.

Jon Gibson gave a report on the upcoming annual meeting in Lafayette. The tentative dates are January 21-23, 1984. Discussion was held as to the location. It was favored to have one meeting place. The USL Conference Center is most economically feasible. The total cost will be approximately \$550 to \$750 without a banquet. This includes \$200 for a meeting room, \$120 for an exhibit room, and \$75 for a dance. It was agreed to charge a registration fee of \$6.00 for the first person and \$4.00 for each additional family member to cover the cost of the meeting and band.

Report was made by Brian on T-shirts and caps. As of yet very few responses have been made. It was felt that sales won't pick up until the time of the annual meeting. David suggested a person in the Shreveport area who may be able to make the caps and shirts.

Jon discussed the cost of printing the Bulletin. Printing costs have increased several hundred percent over the last 10 years. It was noted that the printing cost must be kept between \$2000 to \$3000, or raise dues to cover costs.

Bill will write a letter of appointment to Bob Heuman as the next Bulletin Editor. Bob is to assume his responsibilities after the

Every winter, however, some of them would come back and camp on a piece of ground called "Terre Haute" in the rear of the Tchoupitoulas Plantation, where there is a large grove of Magnolias. There the Indians would remain until spring when they would return to their village in Mandeville (M.C. Soniat, The Tchoupitoulas Plantation, Louisiana Historical Quarterly 7:308-315, 1924).

Soniat goes on to say that their huts were made of palmetto leaves, and that they traded baskets, sassafras and gumbo file for flour, sugar, and coffee. The reason given by the Indians, according to Soniat, for returning each year, is that the older Indians "desired to visit the happy hunting grounds of their ancestors."

There is historic evidence to support this story.

In 1692, two leagues below the Quinipissa town but on the opposite - i.e., eastern - side of the Mississippi, La Salle passed a town that had been plundered and burned not long before, and contained three cabins full of dead bodies. Some of the relations gave the name of this town as Tangibao... (J.R. Swanton, Indian Tribes of the Lower Mississippi Valley and Adjacent Coast of the Gulf of Mexico:284, 1911).

According to Penicaut, several tribes were ordered to re-settle along the banks of the Mississippi in the vicinity of New Orleans by Governor Bienville. Some of the tribes that were a part of this re-settlement were the Cheimachas, the Wacha, and the Colapissa. The Tangipahoa, a tribe living with the Colapissa were once associated with a village near the Chapitoulas.

In a manuscript written by Bienville in 1718, it is noted that the Colapissa were settled for a time on the east bank of the Mississippi. This coincides with Penicaut's statements as well as the Soniat story. It was less than a year after this resettlement that the name Chapitoulas appears.

Perhaps Chapitoulas, 'those who live at the river', was a generic term given by the Choctaw speakers to the Indians that were a part of the river front resettlement. Since, as Bienville states, part of his reasoning for the move was to stimulate trade with the Indians, the Chapitoulas trail or road would have been a natural outgrowth of this process.

Evidence suggests that the Colapissa were at least for some time re-settled in the original village of their Tangipahoa brethren. An early French drawing by Alexandre de Batz documents two types of

na, about 1700, the Muskogean Choctaw speakers consisted of seven tribes. At a place on the Mississippi were the Tangipahoa. At some uncertain site near Pointe Coupee were the Okelousa. At modern Bayou Goula was the Bayougoula town, and below, still on the west bank were the Quinipissa, living with the Mougulasha. The Wacha and the Chawasha were to be found along Bayou LaFourche and the Houma lived in the northwest corner of the Florida Parishes (J.L. Gibson, Louisiana Archaeology 2:3-10, 1975).

"Chapitoulas" first appears in the journal of Andre Penicaut, a French memorialist of the early colonial period. It is applied to an important French settlement above New Orleans.

"That of MM. Chauvin, three brothers, who have more than one hundred slaves to work on their concession, is established three leagues from New Orleans, on the right side going upstream, on the bank of the Mississippi (sic) at a place called Choupitoulas" (Penicaut 1718, Fleur de Lys and Calumet).

Within a year, a path, trail or road called Tchaptoulas or Chapitoulas begins appearing on city maps. It runs along the river from New Orleans to "Le village des Chapitoulas" and was used extensively by the early farmers to bring trade goods to the city.

If the spelling Chapitoulas is accepted as the correct form, the etymology of the word is almost certainly Choctaw in origin. It may be analyzed as a compound of 'hacha' meaning river, 'pit' meaning at, and 'itoulas' meaning reside; literally, 'those who live at the river' (R. A. Reed, Louisiana Place Names of Indian Origin, 1927:62).

There is good evidence that 'Chapitoulas' is the correct spelling. In April of 1724, there was a civil litigation between the owners of the Concession de St. Rayne and the Concession de Chapitoulas (Case 1724). The name is uniformly spelled this way throughout the evidence, pleadings, and judgments. It is written many times in various hands. It therefore seems appropriate for the Choctaw translation to stand.

If the Chauvin brothers had not been illiterate, it is likely they would have shed written light on the Chapitoulas story. Part of the tale was passed by word of mouth. Meloney C. Soniat, a later owner of the Tchoupitoulas Plantation speaks of the tribe as though the mystery never existed.

"The Indians of the Tchoupitoulas Village were gradually driven away by the white settlers and moved over the lake in the neighborhood of Mandeville, there joining other tribes.

Colapissa structures that stood in the area of what is now Jerrerson Parish. On April 15, 1732, de Batz visited the village of the Colapissa which Le Page du Pratz described as a "small nation ... at a league from the spot where New Orleans is today".

If the true location falls anywhere between uptown New Orleans and Jefferson Parish, it would fall close to or in the Chapitoulas region.

Bienville had this to say about the Colapissa:

"They are brave and excellent hunters. They furnish all the fresh meat that is consumed in New Orleans, without, however, neglecting the culture of their lands which produced a quantity of merchandise" (Bienville 1718-25).

If, two years later, when the Chauvin brothers claimed their concession, the Colapissa were sent back to the area of Mandeville, as Sontat says, it would be natural for them to return each year and trade with the settlers, since Bienville encouraged this.

Perhaps some even stayed on a year-round basis as slaves. The census of November 24, 1721 lists about twenty Indian slaves on plantations of the Chapitoulas coast. An unusually high number since the settlers generally feared that the Indians might incite the black slaves to revolt.

In summary, it would seem that the name 'Chapitoulas' derives from the Choctaw name of the Colapissa settlement begun as a part of the general Indian re-settlement program of Bienville in the earliest years of the New Orleans colony. This settlement was slightly upriver from New Orleans, perhaps in the area of the burned town of the Tangipahoa, the remnants of whom were living with the Colapissa at the time. While there, they supplied the French with fresh game and spices. After two years, they moved back across Pontchartrain, probably forced out by the growing estates of the Chauvin brothers.

One final question may be addressed. How did 'Chapitoulas' become 'Tchoupitoulas'? One suggestion that has been forwarded is that it is the combination of two words with similar initial sounds that may have been confused in the early years of illiteracy. Present Bayou St. John had its headwaters in the original Chapitoulas plantation. Pencaut refers to this stream as 'Shupic'. He probably meant Tchoupique which is French for Bowfin or mudfish. It would have been easy for the illiterate Chauvins to confuse the spelling of the Indian settlement and the Bayou that ran through their property, hence the blending into today's Tchoupitoulas (Read 1927).

It certainly has not been difficult to confuse the spelling to this day.

Acknowledgements: This is a revised version of a paper written for Dr. J. Richard Shenkel, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Anthro 3215, North American Archaeology. The topic was suggested by him in response to a question that he had received concerning the identity of the Tchoupitoulas from the Division of Archaeology.

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#### SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The Southeastern Archaeological Conference is 40 years old this year. It is one of the oldest and largest of the regional archaeological associations in the United States with a current membership of over 500 professional and amateur archaeologists. Membership includes two issues of the journal SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY and two issues of the SEAC NEWSLETTER. Both publications include prehistoric and historic archaeological articles. Also, the Newsletter carries reviews, announcements, and current research. The annual meeting, held in the fall of each year, is always a banner affair with contributions from all over the southeast.

SEAC is now having a membership drive in an effort to keep pace with the increasing costs of their high quality publications and broaden the information base by adding interested persons.

The dues structure has just changed with regular, student, associate, institutional and life memberships (and I do not have the current figures, but they are cheap, ed.) Applications for membership can be obtained from:

William H. Marquardt  
Department of Anthropology  
The Florida State Museum  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611

(ed. note) If you are really interested in the archaeology of the southeastern United States, I recommend membership in SEAC. The meetings are among the best and always well attended. The next two year's meetings are relatively close, Pensacola and Tuscaloosa, an easy half day to day's drive.

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CADDOLOGISTS

The 26th Annual Caddo Conference

The 1984 Caddo Conference is being hosted by the Department of Sociology and the Division of Continuing Education at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas on March 9, 10, and 11, 1984.

This notice is a formal call for papers and/or symposia. At this point, the agenda is wide open - Suggestions are welcome. It seems that there are enough people experimenting with the replication of Caddoan ceramics that papers and/or directed discussions along that line might be appropriate. What do our/your successes and failures tell us about Caddo ceramic technology?

Send paper titles and brief abstracts (by January 1, 1984) to:

James E. Corbin  
Department of Sociology  
Box 13047  
SFA Station  
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962

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REMINISCENCE

Melvin P. Glory

Tommy Ryan

On October 12, 1983, Louisiana archaeology lost a good friend. Melvin P. Glory died following a lengthy illness.

Melvin was a founding member of the reorganized LAS and past president of the Delta Chapter. He was well known for his interest in archaeology and his prized artifact collection. Melvin frequently displayed his collection at the Louisiana Gem and Mineral Society's shows and won several ribbons for his displays.

To a young, wide-eyed junior high school student, Melvin Glory was indeed special. I first met Melvin around 1962 through a rather circular route that involved Woody Gagliano and William McIntire. McIntire had found me one Saturday morning prior to an LSU football game with my nose pressed on the glass of one of the display cases in the Anthropology Museum. Mac took the time to invite me into his office, but I am convinced that he was just trying to avoid more

smudges on the glass cases. While in his office, Mac introduced me to Woody, one of his graduate students at the time. When Woody learned I was from New Orleans, he suggested that I contact Melvin. It seems that Melvin had also befriended two aspiring young archaeologists a few years earlier--Woody and Roger Saucier.

I remember calling Melvin the following day. It was Sunday afternoon. Melvin had no idea who I was but he was quick to invite me to meet him and Philip Boff, a fellow collector, that afternoon. Melvin showed me a tray after tray of projectile points and other artifacts that he had collected over the years. For the first time I could actually touch artifacts that were thousands of years old! WOW! I was impressed. Melvin was eager to share his knowledge and guided me through the Kirks and Kents. I was a frequent visitor in his home and Melvin's wife, Phyllis, always appeared at just the right time with a glass of iced tea.

It wasn't long before Melvin invited me to "hunt arrowheads" with him in Mississippi. I had trouble sleeping the night before we left but I was at his house the next morning promptly at 7 a.m. We drove to Tylertown Mississippi and after talking to the landowner for what seemed like an eternity, we began searching a recently plowed field. Melvin kept picking up what appeared to me to be pieces of "broken rocks" but before long I found my first real "arrow head". It was a nondescript stemmed point made on local gravel. I can't tell you how proud I was of my find and Melvin shared every bit of my joy.

I still have that point but above all I shall cherish Melvin's patience and encouragement. Thank you Melvin. I want you to know that my door will always be open when some crazy kid comes knocking. We shall all miss you.

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NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT PUBLISHED

The final report on the archaeology of the Grand Villages of the Natchez Indians, Natchez MS has just been published according to an announcement by Elbert R. Hiltard, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. This report, entitled The Grand Villages of the Natchez Revisited, was compiled and written by the late Robert S. Weitzel, one-time director of the State Historical Museum, and an archaeologist with the Department. Reporting on the 1972 excavation at the Grand Villages, this publication represents a thorough pottery study, which is augmented by an appendix of pottery types by two archaeologists who participated in the 1972 excavation.

The first report, published in 1965, described the finds of 1930 and 1962 excavation projects at the site, the latter directed by Heitzel.

The Grand Village of the Natchez Indians was the center of Natchez Indian activities between 1682 and 1729 when disputes with the French settlers led to the eventual demise of the Indian Tribe.

Robert S. Heitzel was chiefly responsible for transforming the site from overgrown fields where sheet erosion had diminished the ceremonial Indian mounds, to the beautiful, dignified, and educational property it is today. He removed deposited soil, reaching the original plaza surfaces, and was the first to provide satisfactory analyses of the mounds relations to each other.

Today, the property is state owned and preserved, and is administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The report is available for \$15.00 (plus \$.75 sales tax for Mississippi residents and \$.75 postage) from the Old Capital Sales Shop, P. O. Box 571, Jackson MS 39205; telephone (601) 354-6222.

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#### CHAPTER MEMS

Delta

Jill Kaplin

Excavations are complete at the Bayou Road site. Artifact analysis is underway with many pieces glued together. Most of the collection is from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Bettie Pendley and Joan Bruder spent some time with the Coastal Environments, Inc. dig at the new Greater New Orleans Bridge site under the direction of George Bastie.

Meeting speakers this fall have included Brian Duhe, Linda Church and Claude Medford.

Northwest

Ruth Rainey

Northwest members continue to be active in site survey. Jim Hardy and Guy Sample have several new sites. David Row has reported a new prehistoric complex south of Shreveport. Ruth Rainey has one,

possibly two stratified Paleo sites on the McKinney Bayou Project. That project has 115 recorded sites, so far.

The low water has enabled us to examine three area lakes this fall. Tommy Cheatham has recorded 10 new sites on Lake Erling, mostly Archaic or Fourche-Maine. One large Fourche-Maine cremation vessel with charred bones has been found.

Claude McCrocklin has been surveying at Lake Gistineau. With the water table lowered by seven feet, the lake is close to its natural state. He is trying to retrace the route of the Freeman-Curtis expedition of 1806. So far, they have 14 new prehistoric and several historic sites. The total is now 30 sites. The prehistoric sites are mostly Archaic and Fourche-Maine.

Jim Hardy and Guy Sample are looking at Cross Lake and reporting new finds. All of the lakes are being attacked by well organized parties of pot hunters.

Southwest, Imperial Calcasieu

Joe Frank

Dr. Elwyn Cavin was the guest speaker at the September meeting, giving a talk and slide presentation on his recent trip to Arkansas, including archaeological sites and excavations. The October meeting featured the slide and tape show from the Division of Archaeology, "El Constanter". The November meeting was a discussion of the Louisiana Comprehensive Archaeological Plan and how it related to southwest Louisiana. Elections were also held. The 1964 officers are:

- President: O'Neal Smith
- Vice President: Buddy Spillar
- Secretary: Joseph Toups
- Treasurer: Bob Coleman
- LAS Representative: Joe Frank



LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
1984 ANNUAL DUES

(Also 1983 if not yet paid)

NAME	YEAR(S)	AMOUNT
REGULAR		\$10.00
ASSOCIATE		\$3.00
STUDENT		\$5.00
LIFE		\$100.00
SUSTAINING		\$300.00

Make check payable to the Louisiana Archaeological Society and send to:

Emily Vincent  
LAS Treasurer  
2300 Broas Drive  
Marrero, LA 70072

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SALE

T-SHIRTS \$7.00  
Gold with black LAS Logo and printing.

Small ( ) Medium ( ) Large ( ) X-Large ( )

Indicate size and number desired.

BASEBALL CAPS \$7.00  
One size fits all. Indicate number desired ( )

Mail order and correct amount of money to:

Brian Duke  
Louisiana Archaeological Society  
P. O. Drawer 6  
Reserve, LA 70084