

# Louisiana Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 2, No. 3

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EXEMPT -- AT LAST  
Jon L. Gibson  
LAS Vice-President

A letter of determination from the Internal Revenue Service has found that the Louisiana Archaeological Society meets all the requirements for tax exempt status under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Efforts by Society officers -- Jack Bonnin, Treasurer, and Jon Gibson, Vice-president -- are to be applauded for this final decision. And a warm thank you is extended to Bobby Ward, IRS Tax Exempt specialist, for his patience and helpfulness in seeing this ordeal to its merited conclusion. This ruling means that your membership dues are now tax-deductible; that bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, and gifts to the Society or dedicated for the use of the Society are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes under sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code; and that we are not required to file Federal Income Tax returns.

This determination also means that the Society may now qualify for bulk mailing rates, which will save the Society considerable expense in postage. Our mailing expenses will now drop from 10¢ to 1.8¢ per item, an average savings of \$16.40 per mailing. Over the course of a year, this could save the Society hundreds of dollars.

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The newsletter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society is published quarterly by the Society from its editorial office at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Department of Sociology-Anthropology, Lafayette, Louisiana 70501. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the editor or other contributors and do not necessarily reflect Society policy.

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## EDITOR'S PREFACE

Report on bulletin progress. The USL print shop has managed to get back into partial operation following the big fire which gutted the building. As a consequence, I can report that type has been set on all the articles and galley proofs will be sent to authors by the middle of July. Without further delays, we can expect to see the 1974 bulletin sometime in September.

All members (life, sustaining, institutional, and regular) who paid dues for 1974 will receive copies of the 1974 issue, regardless of whether you rejoined the Society for 1975. Members who joined the Society in 1975 and who were not affiliated in 1974 will not receive the first bulletin. If you are a new 1975 member and would like to get this issue, please send back dues (\$10.00) to: Jack Bonnin, P.O. Box 605, Welsh, Louisiana. Please indicate that these dues are for 1974.

The editor is accepting manuscripts for the 1975 bulletin, and we hope, with this second issue, to become current. Manuscript submission deadline is September 1. Several excellent manuscripts have already been selected for the 1975 issue, and if you have, or are thinking about preparing, a manuscript on or relating to Louisiana archaeology (e.g., an article, report, comment, or book review) send it to the editor for consideration.

Book commemorating the issuance of the Chitimacha medal published. A new book, The Chitimacha People, by Herbert T. Hoover has been published by the Indian Tribal Series of Phoenix. The book celebrates the proclamation of the Chitimacha reservation as a "bicentennial community", the first Indian reservation in the U.S. to be so honored. A beautiful silver medal has been struck to commemorate this auspicious occasion. Both the book, which has been personally signed by Leroy Burgess (tribal chairman) and the medal, soon to become a collector's item, can be purchased for \$16.00. Send orders to:

Mr. Leroy Burgess  
Chitimacha Tribal Center  
Charenton, LA 70523

The editor plans to review this book in a subsequent issue of Louisiana Archaeology.

Book on the culture of Acadiana published by USL. A book entitled "The Culture of Acadiana: Tradition and Change in South Louisiana" has just been published by the University of Southwestern Louisiana. The book is a collection of articles detailing varied aspects of the culture of Acadiana, such as an anthropological perspective of Cajun culture, prehistory of Acadiana, differences between North and South Louisiana, Cajun folk occupations, Louisiana French language and the question of identity, family structure, Cajun cuisine, Cajun social institutions and customs, and South Louisiana folklore. The chapters all embody the theme of persistence and change of a folk culture in a 20th century setting.

The book was edited by Steven Del Sesto, formerly a USL instructor in sociology and now a Ph.D. student at Brown University, and by Jon Gibson, USL associate professor of anthropology and head, department of sociology-anthropology. It costs \$8.95 and may be ordered from:

Department of Publications  
University of Southwestern Louisiana  
USL Drawer 1009  
Lafayette, LA 70501

Nominees for LAS offices solicited. The executive committee of the LAS is calling for nominees for the offices of president-elect (vice-president) and treasurer for next year. If individual Society members or chapters as a group have specific recommendations, they should be sent to Dr. Clarence Webb, 1560 Line Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101. Nominations will not be accepted after August 15, 1975.

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#### LAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 28, 1975

The Louisiana Archaeological Society Executive Committee was called to order by Dr. Clarence Webb, President, at 1:15 p.m. at the Hilltop Motel in Delhi, Louisiana.

Executive Committee members present: Dr. Clarence Webb; Dr. Jon Gibson, President-elect; Jack Bonnin, Treasurer; Joe Frank, Corresponding Secretary; Marcus Mapp, Recording Secretary; Bill Baker; Les Davis; Louis Harris, and Dan Shipman.

Guests from the Northeast Society were Manning Durham, Jimmy Gathright, Dewey Robertson, Mitchell Hillman, Paul Hodges, and Reca Jones. Other guests: Mr. Frank and H. Staley.

President Webb asked for comments from the Northeast Society concerning the relationship of the Society to the state organization. The representatives assured the Board that they wanted to work with the LAS to make it a stronger organization.

A discussion was held concerning membership renewals and cutoff dates. Motion by Marcus Mapp, seconded by Don Shipman that we continue sending members the first and second newsletters. The second letter would inform the member that if membership is not renewed by July, their name will be removed from the mailing list. Motion passed.

President Webb called for reports.

Joe Frank, Corresponding Secretary reported that we have been receiving memberships from libraries throughout the state and out-of-state. One hundred fifteen notices about the LAS were sent to the parish libraries, colleges, and universities throughout the state, and the libraries that are mentioned in the Mississippi Archaeological Publication. The Secretary indicated that he had mailed between 300-400 letters about the LAS.

Marcus Mapp reported that the minutes of the first Board meeting had been mailed. He reported that the minutes of the annual meeting held in Lafayette were taken by the Corresponding Secretary and mailed to the Board members. The minutes of both meetings were included in the newsletters.

Jack Bonnin passed out copies of the Treasurer's report. A copy of this report will be included in the next newsletter and not necessarily attached to the minutes. He presented a resolution of the bank statement. Motion by Marcus Mapp, seconded by Dan Shipman that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Motion passed.

Motion by Dan Shipman, seconded by Lou Harris that the Treasurer secure a certificate of deposit for \$1,600 to pay for the annual publication. Motion passed.

Jack Bonnin discussed the need for a form in triplicate for billing and the need for a flyer for the LAS. Motion by Bill Baker, seconded by Les Davis that Jack Bonnin work with Joe Frank and Dr. Jon Gibson to design and have published an appropriate flyer for the LAS. Motion passed.

Motion by Lou Harris, seconded by Les Davis that the Treasurer have printed appropriate invoices for billing. Motion passed.

The Treasurer raised the question of handling overseas mailing. By common consent, the Treasurer should handle overseas mail in the best way possible.

Jack Bonnin passed out a current mailing list to the Board members and suggested that all dues be paid directly to the Treasurer. There was a discussion of late in the year members. What should be done concerning back publications for these late members? Motion by Bill Baker, seconded by Joe Frank that regardless of when a membership occurs, it will be for a calendar year. The new members will receive all back publications for that year, if available. Motion passed.

According to the constitution and by-laws, the Treasurer must examine the membership list to see if they are acceptable members for LAS. Motion by Jack Bonnin, seconded by Les Davis that all names on the published list be accepted into the LAS. Motion passed.

Dr. Jon Gibson, Editor, gave his report. He reported that 16.4 percent of the original membership did not renew. This resulted in a discussion of improving the newsletter by the various local societies sending more articles along with drawings or sketchings of interest. Dr. Gibson introduced two resolutions for the Board to consider. These resolutions will be included in the newsletter.

1. WHEREAS, the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission was created by Act 378 of the 1974 Louisiana legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is authorized and empowered to be the official state agency dealing with all aspects of archaeology on state lands;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the executive committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society unanimously supports the principles and objectives of the Commission and will, within the limits of its ability, aid, advise, and assist in any manner permissible, the activities of the Commission.

2. WHEREAS, the Delta Archaeological Society is a chartered chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Chapter is the official representative of the Louisiana Archaeology Society in the New Orleans vicinity and is responsible for expressing the views and objectives of the Society whenever those views and objectives might be challenged or compromised;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the executive committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society goes on record as supporting the actions on the Delta Chapter with regard to recent compromising news releases; and

BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED that the executive committee commends the Delta Chapter president, Joe Manuel, for his personal role in expressing the Society's policies in face of such compromising publicity.

Dr. Gibson read a letter from the Internal Revenue Service informing LAS that we are exempt from income tax.

The annual publication (number one) is to be out in September, and number two will be published at the end of the year. This concluded the report of the Editor.

Next item of business was to select the site and host for the 1976 meeting. Les Davis, speaker on behalf of the Northeast Society extended an invitation to meet in Monroe. The Northeast Society would serve as host. The Delta Society of New Orleans had issued an invitation, by letter, to the Board for their consideration to meet at the University of New Orleans. Dan Shipman spoke on behalf of the Delta Society invitation. Vote was taken by secret ballot. The final decision was to meet in Monroe on the weekend of January 24-25, 1976. By common consent, it was decided that the annual meeting for 1977 would be in New Orleans.

The next item of business was to select officers for 1976. The officers for the coming year will be President-Elect and Treasurer. According to the by-laws, the Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary are to serve two years. These offices will be filled in 1976. The newsletter will invite nominees from the membership. The local society representatives are asked to present nominations. The nominations should be sent to Joe Frank, and he will inform the Executive Committee for future action.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Marcus Mapp, Recording Secretary  
Louisiana Archaeological Society

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#### LAS FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Net Worth - Jan. 1, 1975		1831.01
Operating balance - Jan. 1, 1975		1281.01
Receipts:		
Late 1974 Memberships		78.00
Regular 1975 Memberships 160 @ \$10.00		1600.00
Associate 1975 Memberships 32 @ \$2.00		64.00
Donations		14.00
Institutional Members		30.00
Pro rata share Life Members 3 @ \$10.00		30.00
Pro rata share Sustaining Member 1 @ \$10.00		<u>10.00</u>
Total Receipts:		1826.00
Expenditures:		
Envelopes	20.12	
Postage (Treasurer)	15.00	
Printing	10.30	
Postage (Secretary)	20.00	
Annual Meeting Expense	26.27	
Printing (Editor)	73.73	
Printing (Editor)	129.74	
Postage (Treasurer)	<u>10.00</u>	
Total Expenditures:	305.16	
	Assets	
Cash		
A. Interest Bearing accounts		- 0 -
B. Other		<u>2791.85</u>
Total Assets:		2791.85
	Liabilities	
Prepaid and other Memberships		
A. Life Members	270.00	
B. Sustaining Members	<u>280.00</u>	
Total Liabilities	550.00	
	Fund Balance & Net Worth	
Total Fund Balance		2791.85
Total Net Worth		3341.85

Jack C. Bonnin  
Welsh, Louisiana

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## THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF POVERTY POINT

The Fox-Man Design

Clarence H. Webb

Shreveport, Louisiana

In a synoptic report of Poverty Point site and culture, I described and illustrated a group of decorated plummets (Webb 1968) collected from the site by Judge Harry Lamley during the 1920's and 1930's, now in the Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma. These plummets featured zoomorphic and anthropomorphic designs, executed with relief, intaglio, and engraving techniques, and made of highly polished hematite and magnetite. They are so unusual and so exactly made that one might harbor the suspicion that they are spurious, made with machine tools. Such concern was lessened by the occurrence, in other and more recent collections, of fragments showing similar or - in the instance of the deer-mask plummet - identical designs.

In the early 1970's Carl Alexander found on the site a broken tablet of cannel coal that is decorated bifacially. One face bears two geometric designs; the opposite has a partial face design on the broken central body and a human figure on the wing (Fig. 1b). The head of this figure closely resembles the heads of a human figure design found on one of the Lemley plummets, which I have reproduced with projected design in Fig. 1a. This similarity in execution of the heads further attests to the authenticity of the Lemley plummets.

The execution of the figures on the two artifacts differs. The plummet has a partially stylized design forming four human figures, with two heads pointing toward each end, effected with continuous line technique in such manner that each line forms part of two adjoining persons and the entire surface of the plummet is covered with a symmetrically formed and exactly spaced design. The figure on the tablet is simpler, with the body sketchily shown, but it has a fluidity of movement as though the person is running or dancing. Eyes and nose are shown, whereas these features are missing on the plummet. The similarity is in the heads and rounded shoulders: the faces are triangular with flat tops, from which two triangles project upward. These might represent a headdress but they also resemble the triangular ear representations on the deer-mask plummet (Fig. 1c). By analogy, Jon Gibson and I have dubbed these figures the "fox-men" of Poverty Point.

Masks of various kinds have been used widely by primitive peoples and are still to be seen in festivals and ceremonies around the world (as in our Mardi Gras). Animal disguises were used in hunting but, even more frequently, animal masks were a part of dances and ceremonies, where they reflected religious concepts. Some may have been clan designations; more often they represented man-animal-god characters. Well-known examples in American archaeology are the eagle, falcon, deer, serpent and puma masked figures of Spiro and other Southern cult art forms. We suggest that by Poverty Point times a varied pantheon flourished and that human-animal-god concepts were part of their ceremonies and reflected in their art.

The writer has no doubt that some plummets, like bannerstones, gorgets, boatstones and tablets, were specially and beautifully made for ornamental or ceremonial usage. But he is also convinced that plummets were primarily utilitarian, important in food procurement as bolas weights to capture large

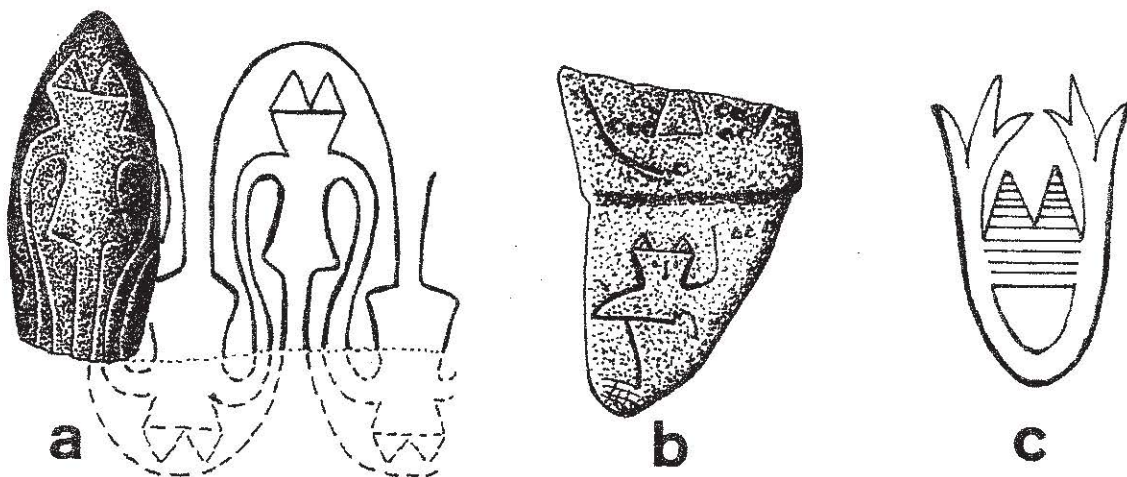


Fig. 1. Designs from Poverty Point artifacts, showing "fox-men" in a and b, deer mask with pointed triangular ears in c. a and c from plummets in Lemley collection, Gilcrease Museum; b, tablet of cannel coal, Alexander collection.

birds or small animals. Their abundance along the great Mississippi flyway suggests that, as among the Eskimos, bolas were especially used by Poverty Point people to capture geese, ducks, swans or pigeons from the seasonal flocks.

#### Reference

Webb, Clarence H. 1968. The extent and content of Poverty Point culture. American Antiquity 33(3): 297-321.

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#### REPORTS

Comments on Red Jasper  
Samuel O. McGahey

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

An article by Dr. Clarence Webb concerning red jasper owl pendants was published in the last issue of the LAS Newsletter (Webb 1975:7). My comments concern the statement that the red jasper is presumably from northeastern Mississippi or northwestern Alabama.

It is my conclusion after considerable time spent in surveying in northeastern Mississippi that very little red jasper occurs there. Most, if not all, of this material seen on archaeological sites in that area has been heat treated and was originally tan or light brown in color. Several experiments which I have done over the past year seem to verify this. A manuscript is now in preparation and hopefully will be published soon. (McGahey, nd.)

The gravel bars in the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Helena, Arkansas, and Clarksdale, Mississippi, contain an abundance of red jasper. Many of the small jasper beads and ornaments from Archaic and Poverty Point sites in the Yazoo Basin appear to be of this material. A wide variety

of other "exotic" stone material is found on such gravel bars by local rock hounds. The possibility should be considered that much of the raw material for Archaic and Poverty Point lapidaries came from a source near at hand.

#### References

- McGahey, Samuel O.  
 nd. Red Jasper and Heat Treated Chert. Manuscript in preparation.  
 Webb, Clarence H.  
 1975 Owl Pendants of Red Jasper. Newsletter, Louisiana Archaeological Society, Vol. 2, no. 2.

Catalog Those Artifacts  
 W. S. Baker, Jr.  
 East Central Louisiana  
 Archaeological Society  
 Jonesville, Louisiana

As amateur archaeologists, we owe it to ourselves to record and classify the sites and artifacts that are found on our favorite collecting areas.

Arrowheads, beads, banner stones and other popular artifacts, while pretty and pleasing to the eye, become much more valuable and worthwhile when they can be associated with the culture or people who fashioned and made use of them.

The first requirement in keeping good records is to describe the site location. This is best done with the use of topographic maps. The next step is to give the site a name and number. A site name might be a stream or well known landmark, the property owner or one of your own choice. The site number can be of your choosing, but must be preceded by the abbreviated letters of the county or parish in which the site is located, and this is preceded by the state number. For example, HAMILTON PLACE, 16CT23. Hamilton Place is the site name, 16 the number given to the State of Louisiana, CT is for Catahoula Parish and 23 is the site number you have designated.

A site may be under study by several persons, each giving different numbers and each unaware of the other's action. If the proper site description is given in each case, the different collections can be studied with the knowledge that, although numbered differently, they are from the same site.

What should you collect from a site? First of all, do not excavate or otherwise alter the site without professional help or advice. Collect only artifacts which are lying about the surface, this might be rock, pottery sherds, projectiles, beads and baked clay objects or it might consist of only one or two of these artifacts. This should be placed in a bag and labeled with the site name and number. Those items you might wish to display should be identified with a permanent identification, such as 16CT23 so that it can be identified with the site or location from which it came.

While surface collections are not as desirable as excavated ones, they are important, for they do give a hint, or insight, as to the nature and period of time that the site might fit.

I know from personal experience that if I do not label a collection bag as soon after collecting as possible and I have collected from several sites, it has been impossible to recall with any certainty which came from where. On the few occasions this has happened, I have placed the samples together and labeled them Catahoula Parish, General Collection. Samples such as these do have some value, but should be avoided.

With a collection recorded and handled in the manner prescribed, a professional archaeologist can examine it with confidence and tell you much about what kind of site you have and possibly what culture or cultures is represented. By observing and listening, you, too can soon learn to recognize these features which tell what type of activity and culture was there.

In conclusion, I might say that this resume does not cover all areas of archaeology by any stretch of the imagination, but it does cover some basic steps in recovering information which has become dislodged from its original resting place by nature or man, and if not recovered quickly, may be lost.

For those of you who might not know or quite understand some of the methods of collecting or location descriptions, there is willing help to be found from many members of your local chapters, both professional and amateur. It is hoped that the few suggestions listed here might make collecting of Indian artifacts more interesting and beneficial to all and give one the self-satisfaction that they have contributed to the discovery and understanding of our early residents. Remember, early man left no written record of his passage through time and only by sifting laboriously and carefully through what he left behind can we hope to learn how he lived and died.

Appendix I  
Parish Abbreviations for Site Designation  
Louisiana (16)

As an appendix to Mr. Baker's report on cataloguing, the editor is including a list of parish abbreviations which is currently used by most of the state universities.

Acadia.....	AC	East Carroll.....	EC
Allen.....	AL	East Feliciana.....	EF
Ascension.....	AN	Evangeline.....	EV
Assumption.....	AS	Franklin.....	FR
Avoyelles.....	AV	Grant.....	GR
Beauregard.....	BE	Iberia.....	IB
Bienville.....	EI	Iberville.....	IV
Bossier.....	BO	Jackson.....	JA
Caddo.....	CD	Jefferson.....	JE
Calcasieu.....	CU	Jefferson Davis.....	JD
Caldwell.....	CA	Lafayette.....	LY
Cameron.....	CM	La Fourche.....	LF
Catahoula.....	CT	La Salle.....	LA
Claiborne.....	CL	Lincoln.....	LI
Concordia.....	CO	Livingston.....	LV
De Soto.....	DS	Madison.....	MA
East Baton Rouge.....	EBR	Morehouse.....	MO

Natchitoches.....	NA	St. Martin.....	SM
Orleans.....	OR	St. Mary.....	SMY
Ouachita.....	OU	St. Tammany.....	ST
Plaquemines.....	PL	Tangipahoa.....	TA
Pointe Coupee.....	PC	Tensas.....	TE
Rapides.....	RA	Terrebonne.....	TR
Red River.....	RR	Union.....	UN
Richland.....	RI	Vermilion.....	VM
Sabine.....	SA	Vernon.....	VN
St. Bernard.....	SB	Washington.....	WA
St. Charles.....	SC	Webster.....	WE
St. Helena.....	SH	West Baton Rouge.....	WBR
St. James.....	SJ	West Carroll.....	WC
St. John the Baptist.....	SJB	West Feliciana.....	WF
St. Landry.....	SL	Winn.....	WN

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#### CURRENT RESEARCH AND COMMENTARIES

Excavations at the Copes site. Mitchell Hillman, Dewey Robinson, and other members of the Northeast Louisiana Archaeological Society have completed the first brief season of field work at the Copes site in Madison Parish, Louisiana. The site was mapped with a "home-made" alidade and plane table made from a camera tripod and board. The site covered about 865 m<sup>2</sup>. Six squares were completed and materials proved to be overwhelmingly Poverty Point with a superficial scattering of Marksville. A black, porous midden zone yielded Poverty Point objects of several types, a very small amount of lithic debris including local and midwestern flints, some pieces of galena, and abundant faunal remains, principally deer and fish. One badly decayed human burial may derive from the Poverty Point occupation.

Copes seems to be a small hamlet which was affiliated with the large Poverty Point site only about 15 km away. Fall occupancy seems certain based on the number of deer antlers and the density of fish remains may bespeak summer tenancy as well. Little stone-working transpired at Copes, and it is suspected that most of the stone tools were brought in finished form from the Poverty Point site.

Mitchell Hillman and Dewey Robinson  
 Northeast Louisiana University and  
 Northeast Louisiana Archaeological Society

Excavations at Paragoud Landing. Archaeological excavations were begun on the Paragoud Landing Site, 160U1, Monroe, Louisiana by the Geosciences Department, Northeast Louisiana University. The effort was initiated by Glen S. Greene, Assistant Professor, as part of a course in archaeological field techniques. This is NLU's first archaeological field school. Excavations are being done by a group of 16 students in three areas: the mortuary area and nearby small mound, a deep midden area along the banks of the Ouachita River, and two possible house mounds also near the river bank. A shallow wide deflation strategy was used on the mortuary area. Some 30, 2-meter pits were opened to a uniform elevation which, of course, varied from place to place because of undulating topography. Nearly 2 meters of deep testing was accomplished in the small mortuary mound.

Eight complete or nearly complete vessels were recovered, plus numerous sherds. The vessels do not fit any well-defined type, but resemble those of the Late Coles Creek and Plaquemine periods. The first 20cm of excavation in the mortuary mound yielded 2 burials, little pottery, and about 40 blue and white European trade beads. In association with these were 2 Poverty Point Objects! The latter is obviously fill from a Poverty Point component somewhere on the site, as other clay balls have been found upon the surface.

The midden area has produced an abundance of mollusca shell, and a wide temporal range of pottery styles. Projectile points from all areas tend to be small, corner notched arrow points of the scallorn and possibly hayes types. A complete report should be forthcoming in the Spring.

Glen Greene  
Northeast Louisiana University

Excavations at Poverty Point. William G. Naag of Louisiana State University is directing excavations at the Poverty Point site in West Carroll Parish this summer. Several 1-meter pits are being excavated in the "plaza" area of the big site near the area of the 1974 excavations. Additional large post molds are being found but so far no definable patterns have been identified. A major problem is identifying the source and nature of transport of the silt layer which covers much of the "plaza". Haag is being assisted by Deborah Woodiel, and LSU students comprise the work force.

Editor

Excavations at Bayou Jasemine. Tommy Ryan, SMU, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology, is supervising excavations at the Bayou Jasemine site near LaPlace, Louisiana, this summer. The site is a deep stratified village with Poverty Point, Tchefuncte, and later occupations. Ryan is welcoming visitors. If you would like to visit, call or write Ryan at: 1205 E. Iowa, Hammond, Louisiana (345-8844).

Tom Ryan

Excavations at Buckeye (16JD20). The USL archaeological research facility, under the direction and supervision of Dr. Jon L. Gibson, Head, Department of Sociology-Anthropology, has recently completed excavations at the Buckeye site, along Bayou Nezpique in Jefferson Davis parish. Gibson was assisted by Steven Brazda, Linda Friedburg, John Kruse, and Bill Lane. The site was excavated by 25 USL archaeology students. A random sample equalling 7% of the total site area was excavated in arbitrary levels. Recovered materials included pottery, flint artifacts, and charcoal, which evidently derived from an as yet unidentified, unnamed segment of prehistory, in the area later to be occupied by the Attakapas Indians.

Jon L. Gibson  
Lafayette, Louisiana

Excavations at Coulee Crow (16SM17). Jon Gibson, assisted by Steven Brazda and USL archaeology students has begun a long term excavation program at the Coulee Crow site, a Tchefuncte component along the Vermilion River in St. Martin parish. The site covers at least 53,500 sq. feet and has a badly disturbed mound. Midden deposits average 2.5 feet thick, and the site promises to yield a great deal of information on the Vermilion phase of Tchefuncte culture. Gibson is also in the process of nominating a 15 km segment of the Vermilion River, harboring a dozen or so prominent Tchefuncte

sites, including Lafayette Mounds, Ruth Canal, and Bayou Tortue, to the National Register as an historical district.

Jon L. Gibson  
Lafayette, Louisiana

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#### CHAPTER NEWS

Imperial Calcasieu Chapter and Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society.  
The Imperial Calcasieu chapter of the LAS has sponsored a number of excellent meetings recently. In March, the chapter had a "show and tell" meeting, featuring artifact exhibitions from several sites, including a site near Slagle, which has produced San Patrice points.

In April, Dr. Charles Bollich presented a program on pottery from the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast. Dr. Bollich is a past president of the Texas Archaeological Society.

In May, President Joe Frank presented a slide program, using selected artifacts and sites, to illustrate the archaeological sequence in Louisiana.

J. W. Batchelor, professor of geology at McNeese State University was the guest speaker for the June meeting. His topic was Indian settlement and Gulf Coast geology.

Northeast Louisiana Chapter and Society. The Northeast Louisiana Archaeological Society elected officers to serve beginning May 1, 1975 for one year. Replacing Charles McKenzie as president is Ms. Reca Jones. Other officers are Luther T. "Dick" Harper, vice-president; Mr. McKenzie, treasurer; and Manning Durham, secretary. The Society meets the last Friday of each month with the exception of July and December in Rm. 337, Hanna Hall, Northeast Louisiana State University, Monroe, Louisiana. Visitors welcome.

Reca Jones  
West Monroe, Louisiana

East Central Louisiana Chapter and Society. A note from the president of the East Central Louisiana Chapter, Bill Baker, is depended; It begins, "Congratulations":

It has been a year now, since a small group of folks got together and formed the EAST CENTRAL LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Since that time we have grown into a good group. By my count, we have 43 regular and associate members. We have had the usual growing pains and will probably experience a few more. Some might feel we are moving too slow in some areas of interest, but be a little patient and it will come.

In looking back, it might be noted that while not hardly a week old, we hosted the reorganization of the LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. We carried out a small excavation at Jonesville. We held a successful artifact show at Alexandria. We have the beginning of a newsletter. We have been on television. At most of our regular meetings we have had some good "show and tell" programs, which have let us see, first hand, many interesting artifacts found in our area as well as other areas. Most of all we have gained more knowledge of the world of archaeology and have enjoyed goodwill and companionship. Not a bad beginning.

I congratulate all of you for the interest, enthusiasm and spirit that you have shown in the past year. I am proud of our accomplishments and look forward to many more.

W. S. Baker, Jr., President  
East Central Louisiana  
Archaeological Society

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#### OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of the 17th Caddoan Conference. The 17th Caddoan Conference was held at Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas, on Friday and Saturday, March 7-8, 1975. Host and conference chairman was Dr. Harry Shafer, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at A & M. For those of our readers who have not been to A & M campus in recent years, a stop by there is recommended if you are in the area; the new buildings, including the Student Center in Rudder Tower, are comfortable, functional and beautiful to behold. These surroundings and Texas hospitality enhanced our enjoyment of the meeting.

The program followed the format established at this conference in recent years: one day of reports from site excavations, surveys or special studies and one day of informal round table discussions with audience participation. The first session, moderated by Frank Schambach, opened with brief reports from the four states (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas) and with papers by Ann Early, Glen Greene and Elton Pruitt. Early reported a survey of the Ouachita Mountain area of south-central Arkansas, including novaculite quarries (numerous and enormous) and the Caddo Gap area where this summer's field school (recently visited by this reporter) is in progress. The Caddo River valley in the Gap is exhibiting occupations from Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Fourche Maline and late Mid-Ouachita (Caddoan) periods.

Skeletal analyses from nine Caddoan sites in southern Arkansas were presented, incorporating 69 individuals of varying ages. Adult female heights averaged 5 feet, 3/4 inches; males, 5 feet, 6 inches; stated to be approximately an inch taller than Middle Mississippians. In the Caddoan material there was 14.3 percent bone infection exhibited, involving chiefly skulls and tibias (lower leg) bilaterally. Discussion from the floor suggested that this kind of generalized osteomyelitis is presumptive of syphilis. The study of 775 teeth from 46 adults showed 8 to 9 percent carious teeth, involving 59 percent of the individuals, with bone abscesses and other dental pathology (Ed.: evidently the native state and natural foods did not guarantee absence of toothache). There were less attrition and abrasion than usually reported (Ed.: possibly these Caddos pounded their corn in wooden mortars, as many Southeastern Indians did, rather than using milling stones).

Glen Greene gave a preliminary report on the Paragoud Mound site on the Ouachita River at Monroe, where Northeast Louisiana University has embarked on a 5-year excavation program. He and Lorraine Greene are presently conducting this summer's 6-week excavation, where some LAS members visited en route to the Executive Committee meeting in Delhi on June 28th. Ninety-three pottery vessels previously excavated by members of the Northeast Archaeological Society appear to be primarily Plaquemine, with some Caddoan or Natchezan admixture or influence.

Elton Pruitt described the scattered "rancherias" of the Hainai Indians, pre and post-contact, on Bayou Loco west of Nacogdoches. It appears that the Hainai were able to maintain their integrity better than most of the Hasinai "Confederacy" of Caddoan tribes in East Texas, during and after the Spanish Mission period.

Friday afternoon's program, moderated by Jack Keller, included presentations by (a) Frank Schambach, of the final season at Ferguson site, a small Caddoan ceremonial center in southwest Arkansas, from which a final report is anticipated; (b) Milton Bell, of the Folly site in the Sabine River drainage, near and similar to the Resch site; (c) Bob Malouf, of the A. C. Mackin site; and - most interesting to this reporter - a report of the Earnest Witte site, 41AU36, by Grant Hall. This site, near Houston, has deeply covered midden and burials on a terrace margin. The midden lithics are Archaic; the burials are sprinkled or covered with red ocher and have placements of oval, doubly-perforated large conch shell gorgets. In audience discussion this reporter, Gregory Perino and Frank Schambach maintained (stoutly) that there must be cultural relationship or contact with the red ocher-"sandal-sole" gorget burial complex of the upper valley, chiefly shown in Glacial Kame culture around the Great Lakes. Subsequent communication with James B. Griffin and Stuart Struever elicits a similar response; heretofore no sandal-sole shell gorgets have been found south or southwest of the Tennessee River drainage, hence the exciting interest in the Texas finds.

The final day of the conference featured panel and audience discussions of Caddoan Economic Systems and Processes of Caddoan Evolution, led by Dee Ann Story, E. Mott Davis, Frank Schambach and Terry Prewett, with a comparative discussion of socioeconomic systems of the Orcoquiza Indians of Southeast Texas, by W. L. Fullen. The discussions touched on the rise and decline of strong hierarchies of civil-religious leadership among the Caddos; the persistence of rank and leadership customs in the Caddoan "Heartland" along Red River as they declined elsewhere; the relationship of burial customs to the social systems; the relative importance of gathered versus cultivated foods; trade customs and items; the derivation of many exotic lithics - formerly thought to have come from great distances - from the Ouachita-Kiamichi Mountains of Arkansas and Oklahoma, reached by a half dozen streams which flow southward into the Red River. Possibly the most challenging was Dee Ann Story's hypothesis that the Davis, Sanders and Spiro sites were outpost colonies for trade and redistribution, relating respectively to Gahagan-Mounds Plantation, Haley and Crenshaw centers on Red River. Migration of bison herds south and southeast into central Oklahoma and Texas is suggested as a possible stimulus for establishment of such outposts.

During the meeting Jim Brown announced the founding of a new archaeological journal, "Mid-Continental Journal of Archaeology", for professional and lay members. Issues will be twice yearly, eventually increased to 3-4 annually; the present subscription is \$7.50 per year. The Editor is David Brose, Western Reserve University; Brown and Jeffrey Brain are regional editors; the first issue will honor James B. Griffin, who retires next year. Brown also announced that Philip Phillips' beautiful study of Spiro shell art will be published by Peabody Museum in the near future.

The next meeting of the Caddoan Conference, its 30th anniversary, will be held at Norman, Oklahoma; Conference Chairman Robert Bell has suggested a tentative date of March 19-20, 1976.

Clarence H. Webb  
Shreveport, Louisiana

Information on Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic Dart Point Caches Requested.

Dr. Dan F. Morse is collecting data on caches of early points such as Clovis, Dalton, Hardin or St. Charles, predating 3000 B.C. Information such as the cache of Dalton points from St. Francis Co., Mo. published in the Central States Archaeological Journal Vol. 7, pp. 56-57 is the kind desired. He would also like to obtain from you information on the largest known of these early point styles.

Send items of information to: Dan F. Morse  
Drawer 820  
State University, AR 72467

Dan F. Morse  
Arkansas Archaeological Survey

Houston Society publishing special issue. Brent Smith is editing Report No. 4 of the Houston Archaeological Society's special publication series, tentatively entitled, "Contributions to Southeast Texas Prehistory". If you have a potential article or would like to receive a copy of this issue, contact: Brent Smith, 1414 Lynnview Drive, Houston, TX 77055.

Brent Smith  
Houston, Texas

New Publications on Louisiana Archaeology.

Gibson, Jon L.

1975 The Prehistory of Acadiana. In The Culture of Acadiana: Tradition and Change in South Louisiana, edited by Steven L. Del Sesto and Jon L. Gibson, pp. 16-40. The University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.

Ryan, Thomas M.

1975 Semisubterranean Structures and Their Spatial Distribution at the Marksville Site. In "Proceedings of the Thirty-first Southeastern Archaeological Conference", edited by Drexel A. Paterson, Jr., pp. 215-225. Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Bulletin No. 18.

Shenkel, J. Richard and George Holley

1975 A Tchefuncte House. In "Proceedings of the Thirty-first Southeastern Archaeological Conference", edited by Drexel A. Peterson, Jr., pp. 226-242. Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Bulletin No. 18.

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