



Louisiana Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER

RICHARD A. WEINSTEIN, NEWSLETTER EDITOR
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC. BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

Volume 26, No. 3

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FROM THE EDITOR

As most members undoubtedly have learned by now, LAS President Roger T. Saucier passed away on October 26, 1999, while at his home in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Needless to say, this came as a tremendous shock to those of us who have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Roger over the past years and decades. This sad news was even more startling to those of us who had seen Roger at the latest LAS Executive Committee Meeting only two weeks earlier. Roger was in fine spirits and apparent good health as he diligently directed the meeting with his typical attention to detail. He was especially proud of the new LAS Brochure that he had picked up recently at the printers, and handed out numerous copies to the various chapter representatives in attendance. With the help of Jim Fogleman, Roger had spent many long hours organizing the contents of the brochure, selecting appropriate photographs, visiting different printing companies to obtain cost estimates, and eventually culminating the entire effort with a fine, first-class product that ultimately will serve the society well for many years to come.

Obviously, the LAS will not be the only organization to feel the loss of Roger. As most members know, Roger was the leading author-

ity on the geomorphology of the Lower Mississippi River valley, and his work with archaeologists in attempting to decipher the geomorphological setting of many sites was well known throughout the region. One of those archaeologists fortunate enough to have worked with Roger at several sites is T. R. Kidder of Tulane University. T. R. has kindly provided this newsletter with a tribute to Roger that appears on the following pages. I know the LAS membership joins me in expressing its condolences to Roger's wife Anita, his son Brian, and his daughter Connie.

Richard A. Weinstein
Newsletter Editor

Inside this issue. . .

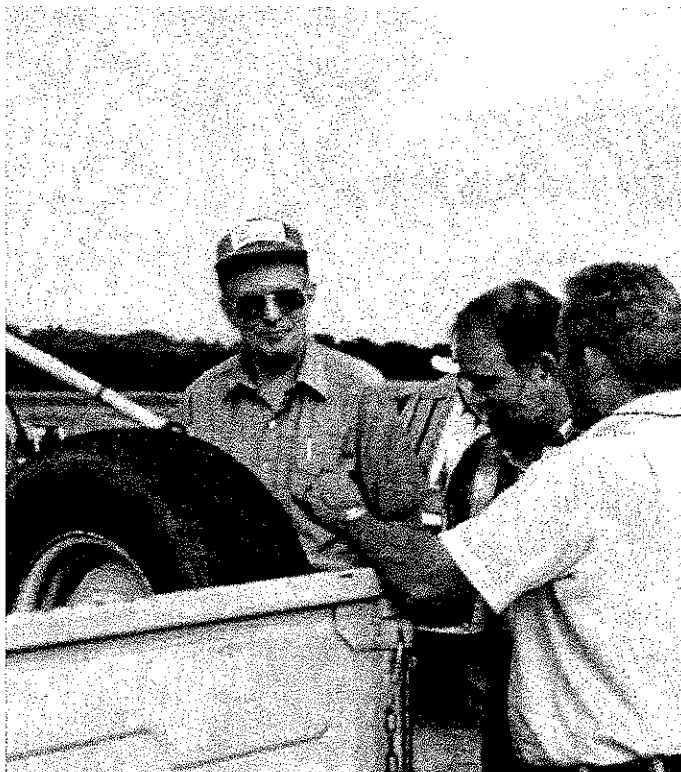
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In Memoriam

ROGER T. SAUCIER

AUGUST 30, 1935 – OCTOBER 26, 1999

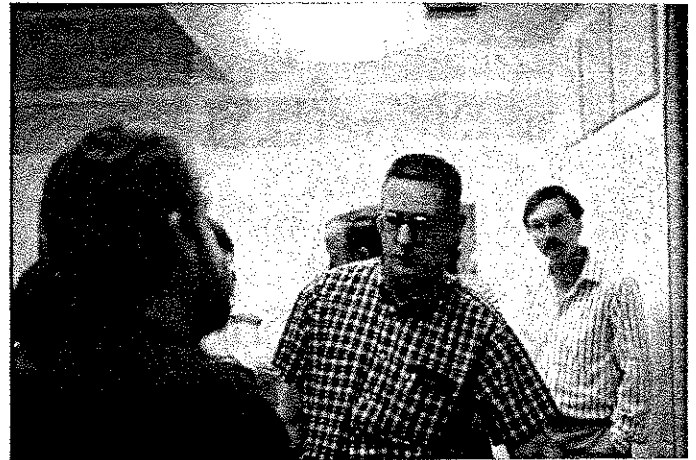
Roger T. Saucier, 64, died on October 26, 1999, at his home in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Although at the time of his death he was retired from his nearly 40-year career with the Corps of Engineers, Roger was actively engaged in archaeological and geological consulting and was serving as president of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. Roger's professional contributions spanned the geology and archaeology of the Mississippi River Valley. He was widely respected for his ability to cross intellectual and professional boundaries and for his meticulous, far-ranging, and innovative contributions to both fields. Although he never held a faculty post, Roger had a remarkable influence on the development of archaeology and geomorphology in the Mississippi Valley and helped to train a generation of archaeologists and geologists alike. Roger was a warm, caring person who was will-



Roger Saucier with Thurman Allen and Bob Neuman, at Mound C, Frenchman's Bend Mounds (16OU259), summer of 1992.

ing to share with anyone in any walk of life and who was concerned with giving guidance and advice to colleagues and laypersons alike.

Roger's career focused on understanding the origin, evolution, geomorphic processes, landforms, deposits, and natural and human modified landscapes in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Born in New Orleans, he received his initial undergraduate training in Geography at Louisiana



Roger and Jon Gibson (back to camera) at the Poverty Point Conference, Poverty Point site (16WC5), May 1986. Steve Williams and Jim Bruseth in background.

State University, where he was influenced by interdisciplinary scholars such as Fred Kniffen, William G. Haag, William McIntyre, and R. J. Russell. Having gotten his B.A. at LSU in 1957 he followed with an M.A. in 1958. In 1959 he became an employee of the Coastal Studies Institute where he worked on his first major monograph on the Geological History of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana (published in 1963). Roger took a job in 1961 with the U.S. Army Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, where he would rise from Research Geographer to Program Manager in the Environmental Laboratory at his retirement in 1994. By the time Roger received his Ph.D. in Anthropology and Geography from LSU in 1968 he was already a major contributor to both the fields of geology and archaeology.



A young Roger excavating at 16OR8, 14 April 1956.

Roger's contributions to both geology and archaeology are remarkable. Before he received his B.A. Roger was involved in informal archaeological surveys along Lake Pontchartrain. Along with Sherwood Gagliano, Roger published a 1963 article in *American Antiquity* demonstrating the presence of Late Archaic (Poverty Point) occupations in the Mississippi Delta region. He helped Clarence Webb and James Ford in their research at Poverty Point, and did field work with Ford during his Dalton surveys in the 1960s. Archaeologists sought Roger's help because his knowledge of geology, coupled with his interdisciplinary training, provided him with a unique vantage point from which to explore and understand the evolution of landforms in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Roger's contributions to the geology of the region are too numerous to mention, but note should be taken of his path-breaking monographs on the geological history of the region (the first published in 1974 and a second in 1994). These monographs applied a sophisticated understanding of geology and geomorphology, along with a comprehensive grasp of archaeological data, to place Quaternary river evolution in a time and space framework that is still state of the art. Unlike some of his predecessors, Roger believed archaeological data could

be used to help better date and understand the geological evolution of the Mississippi Valley. He applied his knowledge of both fields to a better understanding of the expansion of early Holocene settlement in Southeast Missouri and Northeast Arkansas, to the development of Late Archaic (Poverty Point) cultures in Mississippi and Louisiana, and to site-specific problems in later time periods. Roger's use of archaeological data for geological problems was innovative. For example, he applied his knowledge of archaeology and archaeological sites to better understand and date earthquake episodes in the New Madrid fault zone of Missouri. He similarly used archaeological data to appreciate landform evolution in regards to the formation of crevasse splays in northeast Louisiana and meander belt sequences in west central Mississippi. The significance of Roger's work was recognized by the Society for American Archaeology, which awarded him the Fryxell Prize for interdisciplinary research in 1985. In 1996 the Geological



Roger and Mike Ayami examining soil samples at the Indian Beach site (16JE2), 18 April 1954.



Roger and lifelong friend Sherwood Gagliano taking soil cores at Sabine Pass, Texas, in 1955.



Roger at the Bayou Paquet site (16ST21), 9 May 1954.

Society of America presented him with the Kirk Bryan award for his monograph on the Geology and Geomorphology of the Mississippi Valley and the E. B. Burwell Award in 1998.

Beyond his numerous professional contributions Roger was a remarkable mentor to professionals and amateurs alike. Roger became president of the Louisiana Archaeological Society in 1998. He always made a point to contribute to Louisiana Archaeology and other state archaeological journals. Roger spoke with great passion about his desire to include people of all walks of life in the pursuit of archaeology.

Roger's abundant sense of humor, his patience with students and colleagues, his energy, and his professionalism marked him as a special contributor to the field of archaeology in eastern North America. You could always disagree with Roger, but no one who worked with him could do anything but hold him in the highest respect.

T. R. Kidder
Tulane University

Photographs courtesy Sherwood Gagliano, Joe Saunders, and T. R. Kidder

**MEMBERS OF THE LAS CAN MAKE DONATIONS TO THE
LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ROGER T. SAUCIER MEMORIAL FUND.
SEE THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL AT BACK OF THIS ISSUE.**

MINUTES OF THE
LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 9, 1999
Pineville, Louisiana

Reported by
Maureen Downey
L.A.S. Secretary

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society met Saturday, October 9, 1999, at the home of Nancy Affeltranger in Pineville, Louisiana. President Roger Saucier called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. He thanked Nancy Affeltranger for hosting the meeting. Members present included the following:

Roger Saucier - LAS President, Vicksburg, MS
Carl Kuttruff - LAS Vice President/President Elect, Baton Rouge Chapter
David Jeane - LAS Treasurer, Springhill, LA
Rich Weinstein - LAS Newsletter Editor, Baton Rouge Chapter
Maureen Downey - LAS Secretary, Delta Chapter
Nancy Affeltranger - President, Central LA Archaeological Chapter
Mildred Peevy - Central LA Archaeological Chapter
Mary Brice - Northwest Chapter
Virginia Bommer - President, Delta Chapter
Bill Bommer - Delta Chapter
Dolores Martin - Delta Chapter
Lucretia McBride - Delta Chapter
John Guy - LAS Representative-at-Large, Anacoco, LA.

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting held, May 8, 1999, in Marksville, LA were circulated and President Roger Saucier called for any additions or corrections. Rich

Weinstein asked for clarification of the section pertaining to the LAS endorsement of a Louisiana Archaeology faculty position. President Saucier explained that, because no faculty position in Louisiana Archaeology existed in higher education, a proposal had been made that the LAS support the development of such a position. Virginia Bommer motioned that the minutes be approved as submitted. David Jeane seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer David Jeane presented the Treasurer's report. The balance in the checking account as of September 30, 1999, was \$5,656.04. David reminded the Committee that on April 16, 1999, he had purchased another certificate of deposit for \$5000 (LAS Saving "C"). David reported that payments by Brian Duhe were up-to-date. He said that the final accounting for the 1999 Annual Meeting in Monroe was not yet complete. Rich Weinstein will attempt to locate the LAS Guidelines for the Annual Meetings. President Saucier thanked David for the Treasurer's Report.

Membership Report

Membership Chair David Jeane reported that as of this date, the LAS has 257 members. He stated that overall membership was down. The Committee discussed various means of increasing membership. Carl Kuttruff made a motion, seconded by Nancy Affeltranger, to accept the Membership Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Newsletter Report

Newsletter Editor Rich Weinstein reported that the Newsletter had been mailed. He said

that, again, few submissions had been received. He added that this lack of submissions was causing delay in the publication of the Newsletter and then appealed to all members and chapters to contribute to the Newsletter. President Saucier said he would speak to Dr. Eubanks about having the regional archaeologists report on their activities. Roger also suggested, like last year, that the abstracts from the upcoming Annual Meeting be published in the Newsletter. David Jeane motioned that the Newsletter Report be accepted. Nancy Affeltranger seconded the motion and the Committee then passed it.

Bulletin Report

Bulletin Editor T. R. Kidder was unable to attend the meeting, but he had previously submitted his report to President Saucier. In his report, he stated that Bulletin 23 (1996) was at the publishers. That bulletin will contain five articles and will be 156 pages in length. Bulletin 24 (1997) will go to press this fall. Presently he has no material for Bulletin 25 (1998). Nancy Affeltranger motioned that the Bulletin Report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Mary Brice and passed by the Committee. Discussion followed concerning the publication of the Bulletin when Jon Gibson retires. Roger Saucier and Carl Kuttruff will pursue the matter. Roger Saucier then proposed that the Committee consider a change in format to an 8 1/2" x 11" format. He also proposed that the position of Managing Editor of the Bulletin be created to facilitate the publication of the bulletins. T. R. would continue as Editor while the Managing Editor would be responsible for the paperwork. Rich Weinstein motioned that the position of Bulletin Managing Editor be created. David Jeane seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Committee.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned for lunch. It resumed at 1:25 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Updated LAS Brochure

President Saucier announced that the updated LAS Brochure was completed. He reported that Franklin Press in Baton Rouge had printed the brochures after having submitted the lowest bid of \$1,798.86 (or 18¢ each). Roger asked for suggestions for distributing the brochures. Rich Weinstein proposed that the brochures be placed at state culture and recreational centers. Roger will investigate. He will also speak with Nathaniel Heller at the Division of Archaeology about placing the brochures at all Archaeology Week events. Virginia Bommer asked that the chapters be given brochures to distribute. Roger apologized to all members of the Northwest Chapter for the inadvertent omission of their chapter on the brochure. He remarked that the Northwest Chapter was certainly an important part of the LAS. President Saucier congratulated Jim Fogleman for his excellent work in updating the brochure.

New Business

President Saucier introduced Lucretia McBride who, along with some other members of Delta Chapter, attended the Executive Committee meeting in order to obtain from the Committee assistance in resolving a controversial situation within the Chapter. After hearing from the Delta Chapter members, the Committee discussed whether it was within its purview to intercede in the situation. The consensus was that the Committee could only act in an advisory capacity. Suggestions were made which the Committee hoped would be helpful.

Virginia Bommer, President of Delta Chapter, reported on the 26th LAS Annual Meeting to be held February 4, 5, and 6, 2000, at the Holiday Inn, Metairie, LA. Roger Saucier com-

mented that the LAS web site must be updated to include information regarding the meeting. Plans are to have reprints of LAS Special Publication No. 1, *Stone Points and Tools of Northwest Louisiana*, by C. Webb, available for purchase at the meeting. Rich Weinstein will check with Cherie Schwab, who is reprinting the publication, regarding the status.

President Saucier will notify all members of the date and location of the next Executive Committee meeting. After thanking Nancy Affeltranger for a delicious lunch, he asked if there was any further business. There being none, Rich Weinstein made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dolores Martin and unanimously passed by the Committee. President Roger Saucier then adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Bibliography of the Prehistory of the Upper Texas Coast, No. 11, by L.W. Patterson, Houston Archeological Society Special Publication, 1999.

The eleventh volume of this bibliographical series covering the 21-county area of Southeast Texas is now available for \$7.00 including mailing from the Houston Archeological Society, P.O. Box 6751, Houston, TX 77265-6751

CHAPTER NEWS

CENTRAL LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHAPTER

We are still on the globe and we are still working up Tyrone Plantation artifacts. The meetings have been mostly dealing with artifact identification to the tune of near 2,000 ceramics, glassware and metal objects.

We had a few speakers: David Jeane's mummy finds and Ellis Dennings' interest in early man movement have made for interesting meetings. We need other speakers—call (318) 640-9258

The Central Louisiana Archaeological Chapter sends its regrets and prayers to Anita, the wife of Roger Saucier, and the rest of his family. Roger Saucier was an inspiration to me as well as a friend. He will be sadly missed by us all.

A friend in prayer and time,

Nancy Affeltranger

Pres. CLAC

and all the crew

L.A.S. WEB SITE

The L.A.S. has a web site that one can search for information on the society, it's upcoming meetings, past publications, etc. Check it out!!—
www.laarchsoc.org

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA BASES

by
Leland W. Patterson

Chip McGimsey (1999) has announced that he is compiling a data base for radiocarbon dates in Louisiana. I applaud this project to make radiocarbon dates for Louisiana more available. I would like to suggest, however, that a wider goal be established to formulate computerized data bases to cover a wide range of substantive data for this state. When large numbers of archaeological sites are involved, computerized data bases are not only desirable but necessary to readily obtain data for regional interpretations. Without suitable data bases, archaeologists often rely on a few key sites for interpretations, which can give impressionistic rather than objective conclusions, when all of the existing data are not used.

I would like to use my computerized data bases for the inland (Patterson 1989a) and coastal margin (Patterson 1989b) parts of Southeast Texas as examples of the value of computerized data bases that contain a wide range of archaeological data (Patterson 1994). My syntheses of Southeast Texas archaeology (Patterson 1995a, 1996) would not have been possible without use of computerized data bases. Separate data bases have been used for inland and coastal margin areas because of differences in characteristics of artifact assemblages for these two areas. Coastal margin sites are mainly shell middens.

The use of a relational data bases enables complex questions to be easily answered, because tables on various types of data can be linked. For example, a table with time periods and site locations can be linked to other tables with data on artifact types.

The computerized data base for inland Southeast Texas consists of twelve tables, including

basic site data, arrow points, early dart points, later dart points, ceramics, radiocarbon dates, lithic tools, general lithics, terrestrial faunal remains, aquatic faunal remains, miscellaneous artifacts and site features, and mortuary data. There is also a non-computerized table for uncommon artifact types. Each table in the data base has a primary column of site numbers, which serves as the link between tables to make complex queries. Basic site data includes site number, county, work type (excavation or surface collection), time periods, and site midden type. There is also a column for east-west zones within the region, because Southeast Texas is an interface between the Southern Plains and the Southeast Woodlands, with differences in east-west frequencies for several artifact types.

The computerized data base for the coastal margin of Southeast Texas consists of ten tables, including basic site data, arrow points, dart points, ceramics, radiocarbon dates, lithics, terrestrial faunal remains, aquatic faunal remains, miscellaneous artifact types, and mortuary data.

The computerized data bases for Southeast Texas were formulated in 1989 and are updated about every two years. There are now over 300 sites in the inland data base and over 200 sites in the coastal margin data base. These data bases have proven useful for regional studies on a wide range of subjects, such as population dynamics, geographic distribution of artifact types, use of earth ovens, ceramic studies, and lithic studies.

There is an updated bibliographic series for the archaeology of Southeast Texas (Patterson 1999), with a cross index of site numbers. Complex bibliographic searches can be made by using the computerized data bases together with the bibliography. For example, sites with certain time periods and artifact types can be identified by site number, using the computerized data base. Then published references for each

site can be found in the bibliography by use of the site number cross index.

An important benefit of archaeological data bases is the preservation of archaeological data (Patterson 1995b). Site reports are often not readily available, which leads to practical "losses" of data.

The formulation of archaeological data bases for Louisiana would require the efforts of a number of people on a regional basis. It would be well worth the effort to do this, however.

REFERENCES CITED

McGimsey, C.

- 1999 Building an Archaeological Radiocarbon Database for Louisiana. *Louisiana Archaeological Society Newsletter* 26(2):8-9.

Patterson, L.W.

- 1989a *A Data Base for Inland Southeast Texas Archeology*. Report No. 6. Houston Archeological Society, Houston.
- 1989b *An Archeological Data Base for the Southeastern Texas Coastal Margin*. Report No. 7. Houston Archeological Society, Houston.
- 1994 *Southeast Texas Archeological Data Bases: Design and Use*. Special Publication, 1994. Houston Archeological Society, Houston.
- 1995a The Archeology of Southeast Texas. *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* 66:239-264.
- 1995b The Preservation of Archeological Data. *The Chesopiean* 33(3-4):5-11.

- 1996 *Southeast Texas Archeology*. Report No. 12. Houston Archeological Society, Houston.

- 1999 *Bibliography of the Prehistory of the Upper Texas Coast, Number 11*. Special Publication, 1999. Houston Archeological Society, Houston.

NEWS

AWARD GOES TO SOUTHDOWN PLANTATION MUSEUM

LAS member from Terrebonne Parish, Sue Olin, reports that The Native People's of Louisiana Room at the Southdown Plantation Home Museum in Houma, LA, has been the recipient of a state award. The award was presented by the Louisiana Preservation Alliance at its annual conference. The prehistory display of the exhibit was aided by Richard Weinstein, pottery identification, Robert Neuman and William G. Haag. The award was presented in the category of education. Many school students, along with Louisiana residents and tourists from around the world, have viewed the exhibit. Many thanks again go out to the above mentioned for their large part in making the display such a success.

JON GIBSON HONORED

The following letter recently was written by A. David Barry, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. It was addressed to all anthropology students at the university, and a copy was submitted to the LAS newsletter. It clearly expresses the tremendous achievements of Jon Gibson at the university over the years, and confirms the university's commitment to continue the high standards of anthropological and archaeological

research established by Jon. The editor of the LAS newsletter felt that the membership would appreciate the letter in its entirety.

October 6, 1999

Dear Anthropology Student:

As you are well aware, students in Anthropology are fortunate to have such a strong program with high quality instruction and applied research opportunities at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Through the leadership of Dr. Eddie Palmer, department head, and under the tutelage of Dr. Jon Gibson, Mr. Dan Cring and Dr. Jacques Henry, the anthropology program has prospered and prepared an increasing number of students for careers and future graduate study. Your successes mirror the quality of our program and reflect in a positive way on the teaching and research efforts of the faculty.

You are perhaps also aware that Dr. Jon Gibson has reached the point in his career where he is planning on retirement. He has been a mainstay of the Anthropology program for many years, has led students through the learning experience at Poverty Point and has established himself as one of the foremost anthropologists in the state of Louisiana. You may be asking, "What does Dr. Gibson's retirement mean for the future of the program and for your own career and future study opportunities?" Although we will never be able to replace Dr. Gibson (his contributions make him irreplaceable!), we are already planning for the future of the Anthropology program at UL Lafayette.

As dean of the college, I want to assure you that your future at the university is secure. In fact, we are planning not only to maintain the high quality of the program, but to enhance the

program. With the growth in the number and quality of Anthropology students in the department over the last several years, we want to build on what is already a very strong program and make it even better. The achievements of our recent graduates justify a continuing and increased commitment to Anthropology teaching and research at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Rest assured that you have the commitment of my office and the department to continue providing you the best possible education and training as Anthropology students. Best luck in your future studies and professional careers.

Sincerely,

A. David Barry

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

**COBB INSTITUTE TO
SPONSOR INTERDISCIPLINARY
CONFERENCE ON PRAIRIE
ECOSYSTEMS**

On May 19 and 20, 2000, an interdisciplinary conference entitled, "Blackland Prairies of the Gulf Coastal Plain: Culture, Nature, and Sustainability," will be held at Mississippi State University. This conference will feature archaeologists, geologists, botanists, paleontologists, biologists, ecologists, and public educators, among others. Its purpose is to bring together the various organizations and individuals interested in the unique prairie ecosystems of the central Southeast, to examine the role that humans have played in shaping those ecosystems over time, and to make management recommendations for future use of the prairies in a sustainable manner. Archaeologists currently scheduled to speak include Janet Rafferty and Evan Peacock (MSU), Jack Elliott (Mississippi Depart-

ment of Archives and History), and Frank Schambach (Arkansas Archeological Survey). Biological anthropologist Homes Hogue (MSU) is also scheduled to give a paper. Topics of particular interest to archaeologists include: the role of Native Americans in the spread of osage-orange in Arkansas; prehistoric human environmental impact in the Black Prairie of Mississippi as determined from land snail remains; environmental factors conditioning Late Prehistoric settlement patterns in the Mississippi / Alabama Black Belt; historical geography of the Black Belt; and, environmental reconstruction using small mammal remains and ancient plant impressions in clay.

The Cobb Institute of Archaeology is co-sponsoring the conference along with the Department of Biological Sciences. Conference organizers are Dr. Evan Peacock (Cobb Institute of Archaeology), Tim Schauwecker (MSU Dept. of Biological Sciences) and Dr. Evan Weiher (University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, Dept. of Biology). There will be a catered reception at the Cobb Institute at 6:00 p.m., Friday evening, May 19.

The conference is open to anyone wishing to attend. There is no registration fee, but we would appreciate an e-mail if you plan on attending so that we can make arrangements accordingly. A block of rooms is being held at the University Inn of Starkville (662-323-9550). The conference will be held in Harned Hall on the MSU campus, and will begin ca. 8:30 Friday morning (the final schedule is not set). A field trip to a prehistoric mound and village site is tentatively scheduled for Sunday morning.

If you would like more information on the meeting, or plan to attend, please contact Evan Peacock by phone (662-325-1663) or e-mail (peacock@anthro.msstate.edu). We look forward to seeing you at what should be an interesting and informative interdisciplinary conference.

BOOK REVIEW

THE EMERGENCE OF POTTERY Technology and Innovation In Ancient Societies

Edited by William K. Barnett and John W. Hoopes
Smithsonian Series in Archaeological Inquiry,
Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington and London, 1995

Reviewed by Michael C. Poe
Archaeological Research Systems
Mobile, AL

This collection of essays represents the efforts of twenty-five scholars from around the world. Discussions of early pottery types from around the globe begin with the famous Jomon pottery of early Japan then move to Asian, North African crafts and then transverse Eurasia and Europe. The global focus continues as the topics shift to the Americas, from the famous early Valdiva of Equador to obscure and unreported sites and reports in the Amazon of South America.

The age and function of the earliest ceramics from around the world take on new meaning as surprising candidates for the earliest pottery in the Americas emerge from heretofore unknown origins to the general public as well as scholastic sources. More than two dozen world-class archaeological investigators and authors, including John W. Hoopes, A. C. Roosevelt, and Kenneth E. Sassaman, convey new meanings and fresh messages concerning current thinking on the topic of the origins and spread of prehistoric ceramic containers.

This book serves as a virtual "global handbook" of ceramic archaeology. The reader now has a remarkable collection of essays focusing on technological innovation and change as well as delving into the very dynamics of group interaction and motivation for adoption of new tools

and processes. By exploring pottery production in the contexts of the origins of agriculture, the development of sedentism and exchange systems, and its role in social and economic structures, we discover that the earliest ceramics were not containers but figurines. Also, it becomes apparent through case studies that the invention of pottery is dependent neither on agricultural production nor sedentism and that pottery was developed for different reasons in different contexts.

Fresh perspectives are now given by the authors, such as a more functional approach to understanding early pottery types as opposed to simply characterizing just clay and temper. Historically, ceramic analysis often has focused only on time and space relationships and only rarely considered the many other kinds of information that could be obtained from pottery analysis. Pots were tools and they were made to be used. Also, the notion that we should expect early pottery to be simple or crude is undermined as we discover that cruder or coarser ceramics may appear later, in some contexts, indicating that pottery had by then become commonplace in various societies.

This is a book that belongs in the personal library of both the professional and amateur archaeologist. Simply being exposed to the varied subjects and international focus should cause the reader to enjoy a challenging excitement and fresh enthusiasm for a most popular subject—the emergence of pottery.

www.discoveringarchaeology.com

Find out the latest news in archaeology from around the world. The site runs a weekly exclusive feature article, as well as information on archaeological symposiums and museum exhibits and provides a weekly online archaeology newsletter.

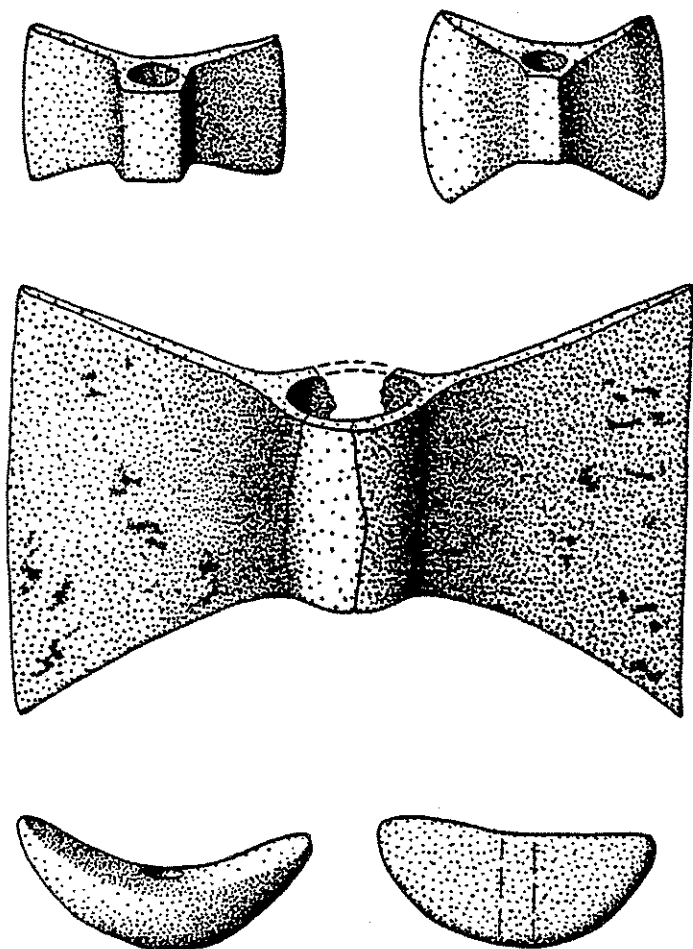
SUBMIT!!!

The LAS newsletter needs your help! Got information on a field school, a new project, or even an interesting artifact? What's going on in your local chapter? What's new at the universities, regional archaeology offices and state parks? Need information or help with a particular archaeology-related problem? Tell us about it and you'll see it here!

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

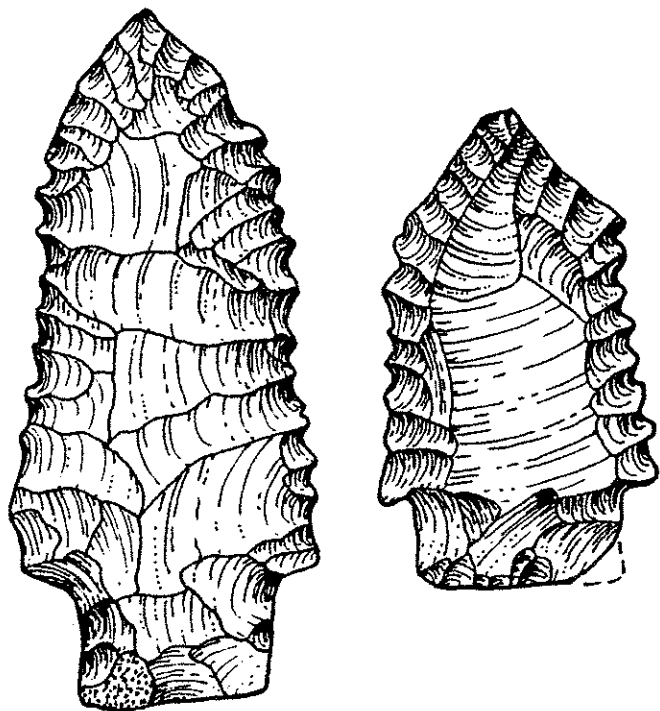
I am requesting information from members of the LAS. I am in the process of assembling data on bannerstones in the Southeast and would like to know the distribution of this artifact type within the state of Louisiana. I have enclosed a copy of Byron Knoblocks typology for bannerstones. If possible I would like to know the types of bannerstones present. In addition, I am requesting data on miniature, or effigy bannerstones. These objects are usually considered to be beads, but are actually miniature copies of bannerstones and can be classified according to Knoblock's typology. Finally I would like to request distributional data on the two point types, St. Tammany and St. Helena. If you have these types of artifacts in your collection, or if you know of people that do, please contact me. Thanks.

Sam Brookes
 100 W. Capitol St., Suite 1141
 Jackson, MS 39269
 601-965-4391, ext 124
 e-mail: sbrookes/r8_ms@fs.fed.us

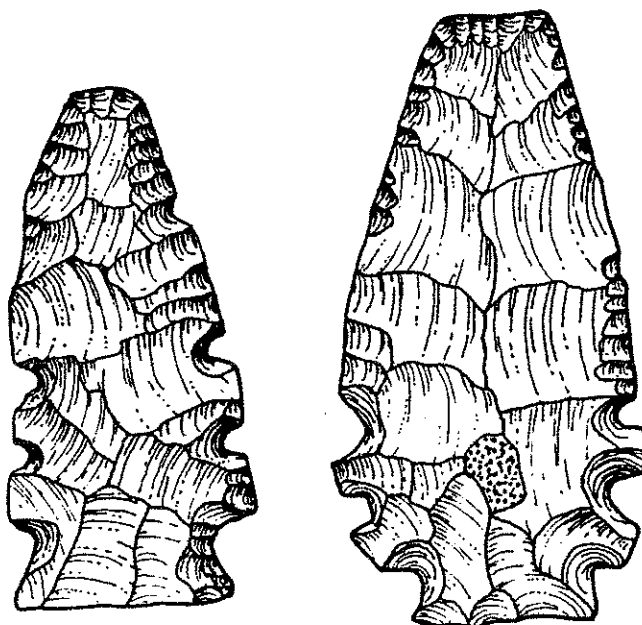


Bannerstones

Artifacts shown actual size.



St. Tammany



St. Helena

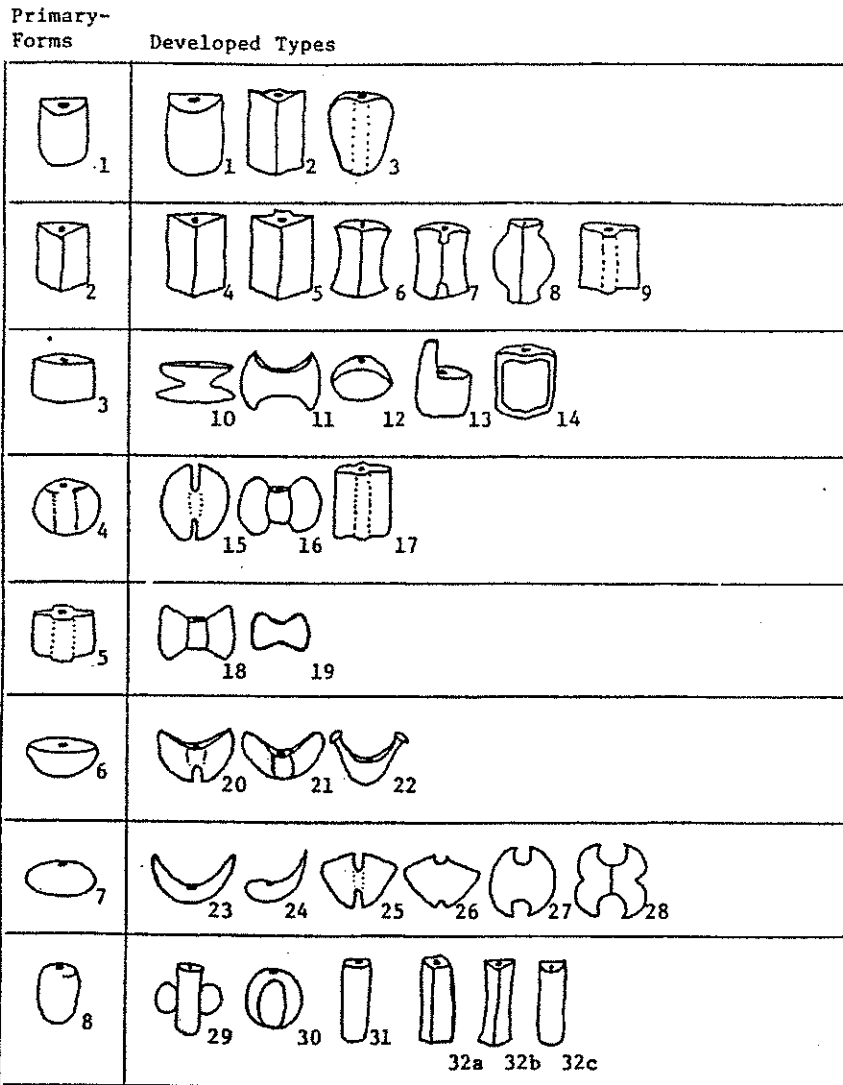


Figure 1. Knoblock's 42 identified shapes of bannerstones. (Knoblock 1939:149).

Table 1. Knoblock's names for his identified shapes of bannerstones (corresponds to Figure 1) (Knoblock 1939:148).

Primary Forms	
No. 1. Southern Humped	No. 5. Southern Rectangular
No. 2. Southern Triangular	No. 6. Southern Boat-Shaped
No. 3. Southern Double-Edged	No. 7. Heart-Area Ovate
No. 4. Southern Ovate	No. 8. Southern Tubular
Developed Types	
No. 1. Humped	No. 18. Wisconsin Winged
No. 2. Concave Humped	No. 19. Undrilled Wisconsin Winged
No. 3. Shield-Shape	No. 20. Notched Crescent
No. 4. Triangular	No. 21. Mississippi Valley Crescent
No. 5. Triangular (Dual Type)	No. 22. Knobbed Lunate
No. 6. Hour-Glass	No. 23. Curved Pick
No. 7. Saddle Face	No. 24. Single Pronged Pick
No. 8. Single-Face Bottle	No. 25. Double Notched Butterfly
No. 9. Hinge-Type	No. 26. Undrilled Notched Butterfly
No. 10. Reel	No. 27. Notched Ovate
No. 11. Double Bitted Axe	No. 28. Double Crescent
No. 12. Shuttle	No. 29. Bi-Face Bottle
No. 13. Geniculate	No. 30. Fluted Ball
No. 14. Paneled	No. 31. Round/Oval Tubular
No. 15. Notched Ovate	No. 32a. Square Tubular
No. 16. Quartz Butterfly	No. 32b. Triangular Tubular
No. 17. Rectangular Barreled	No. 32c. Single-Face Tubular

Knoblock, Byron W.
1939. Bannerstones of the North American Indians. Privately published. LaGrange, IL.

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