

Survey under way at Spiro Mounds archeological site

A multi-year remote sensing survey is under way at Spiro Mounds.

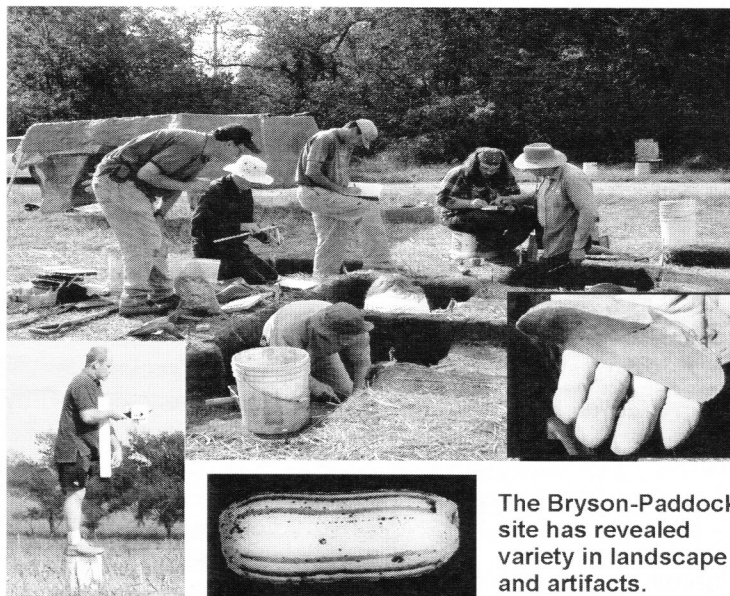
Researchers from five public entities are cooperating in the effort — the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, Arkansas Archeological Survey, University of Oklahoma, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

"This use of remote sensing data will allow any future excavations to be able to focus on unique areas of site while disturbing as little as possible," said Dennis Peterson, archeologist and Manager of the Spiro Mounds Archeological Center.

"This is important at Spiro Mounds, as it is sacred to the Wichita and Caddo Tribes. All research is respectful of this unique and important prehistoric site," he said.

Phase 1 of the study, completed Oct. 17-21, relied on various technologies — among them ground penetrating radar and mag-

(See Spiro Page 9)



The Bryson-Paddock site has revealed variety in landscape and artifacts.

Wichita-French trading village site of 2012 OAS Spring Dig

Excavation explores trenches and fortifications

A series of concentric trenches continue to intrigue archeologist Richard Drass at the Bryson-Paddock dig site northeast of Ponca City.

Located near the Oklahoma-Kansas line beside the Arkansas River, the trenches circle a Wichita Indian village dating to about 1740.

Once again volunteers from the Oklahoma Anthropological Society will help excavate the site. They previously volunteered in 2004, 2007 and 2009.

The 2012 OAS Spring Dig straddles the Memorial Day holiday. Dig dates are May 25-June 3. Andy Slaucitajs is OAS Dig Committee Chairman. Cathy Compton is program coordinator.

Dr. Drass is excavation director. His colleagues in the research are Susan Vehik of the University of Oklahoma and Stephen Perkins of Oklahoma State University.

With as many as seven trenches identified so far, moving like ripples in water, site 34KA5 has a puzzling layout, Dr. Drass said.

According to the staff archeologist at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, an

(See Spring Dig Page 6)

Annual OAS meeting

Experts to focus on state forensic archeology

A rare opportunity will occur when speakers examine "Forensic Archeology In Oklahoma" at the Spring Meeting of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

The public seldom gets a chance to explore forensics aside from TV shows, books and an occasional newspaper or magazine article. The result is often a skewed understanding of forensics, said Kent Buehler.

A crime scene archeologist at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, Buehler is called to the scene when human remains are found.

His team of excavators recover the remains and use archeological techniques to collect evidence that traditional investigative procedures might miss.

Buehler is lead-off speaker at the annual OAS meeting. Set April 14 at the Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton, the lecture series begins at 9:30 a.m.

The public is welcome,
(See Forensic Page 4)

*On Your
OAS Calendar*

**April 14
OAS Spring Meeting
in Lawton**

**May 25 - June 3
OAS Spring Dig at
Bryson-Paddock**

Make it easy

It's that time of year, spring, and the going gets easy. Our thoughts turn to mowing green grass, sizzling barbecues on the patio, and updating our membership in The Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

Maybe not so much the third thing. But you can make it easy on the membership committee by sending along your renewal now. It's a bargain. Just see Page 3.

Thank you.



Trowel Marks Newsletter

A quarterly publication
of The Oklahoma Anthropological Society

Executive Officers

Debra Baker, Lawton, President (580) 678-1416
Ed Mayfield, Oklahoma City, Vice President (405) 525-3343
Cathy Compton, Oklahoma City, Treasurer (405) 308-2829
Cari Foster, Oklahoma City, Secretary (405) 320-1993

Membership

An application to join the Society or renew your membership for the year, and information about OAS activities, publications and its contribution to Oklahoma archeology, is in this OAS Newsletter and on the OAS Website www.okarcheology.org.

OAS offers varied memberships. All members receive the Society's annual *Bulletin of Oklahoma Archeology* and quarterly *Trowel Marks Newsletter*. Contributing, Sustaining, Life, and Institutional members also receive *OAS Memoirs*. For more information, contact Dot Linn, Membership Chairman at (405) 202-5388.

Publications

Order handbooks, point guides, memoirs and other publications of The Society from Christi Madden, Publications Chairman, at christi-madden@ouhsc.edu. Publications are listed on the OAS Website.

Contact the OAS Newsletter

Editors Jon and Diana Denton
(405) 376-0074 jonrdenton@aol.com
or dlwdenton@aol.com.

Opinions in this publication, unless otherwise identified, are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect policies of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

Events of Interest

April

13-14 Family Fossil Field Trip, 8:30 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday. Visit a dig site in search of marine fossils. Open to children ages 8 and up with an adult. Pre-registration required, April 6 deadline. Call (405) 325-1008, Museum of Natural History, Norman.

14 OAS Spring Meeting, 8:30 a.m. Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. program "Forensic Archeology in Oklahoma," at Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton. Public invited. Contact Program Chairman Jon Denton (405) 376-0074.

17 "Tutankhamun: The Life and Death of a God King," 7:30 p.m. with Lanny Bell lecture by Archaeological Institute of America, AIA Society, Norman. Location TBA. Call (405) 325-7667.

21 Animal Tracks: Identification and Collecting, a 9 a.m. to 1 pm. adult workshop led by curator Nick Czaplewski. Participants will caravan to the field site in their own vehicles. Pre-registration deadline April 16. Call (405) 325-1008.

28 Tombstone Tales at Historic Fort Reno; 5:30 p.m. with Taste of El Reno Dinner, 7 p.m. performance by Lantern, Fort Reno Post Cemetery, El Reno. Call (405) 262-3987.

27-28 Spring Encampment, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fort Gibson Historic Site. Life of soldiers and civilians in Fort Gibson, 1846 to 1890. with military presentations, crafts, games. Free admission. Call (918) 478-4088.

May

12 Annual Archaeology Day, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Period reenactors, flint knapping, Indian stickball games, pottery and painting. Call (918) 962-2062. Free Admission.

25 OAS Spring Dig through June 3. An 18 century Wichita-French trading village on Arkansas River, the Bryson-Paddock site is northeast of Ponca City. For OAS information contact Dig Chairman Andy Slaucitajs at slostus1@cox.net

June

9-16 TAS Field School at Devils River State Natural Area near Del Rio, Texas. HQ camp San Pedro Campground. Members identify significant sites before the new park opens in 2013. Archeologists Margaret Howard and Luis Alvarado are principal investigators. Contact (830) 868-9149

20-21 Summer Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center. Walks start at 11 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m. each day. Entry fee \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$1 children. Walk fee is \$3 adults and \$2 child over age six in addition to regular entry fee. Call (918) 962-2062. Free Admission.

Trowel Marks

OAS President Debra Baker

This is going to be a busy and exciting start of another year for the OAS.

We have the OAS Spring Meeting April 14 in Lawton at the Museum of the Great Plains. There is a promising lineup of speakers. The theme this year is forensic anthropology, something we seldom hear about outside the media.

The program committee has been diligently working on the meeting and has done an excellent job. I want to give a special thank you to archeologist Kent Buehler for his contribution.

In addition to the lectures, we will have a Membership Meeting. We will vote on some important issues -- bylaw changes and election to several At-Large-Directors positions.

We will also be doing something a little different this year. We will have a catered lunch at the meeting. This gives OAS members, speakers and visitors an opportunity to visit, rather than hurry to and from restaurant.

I hope everyone will join us for this chance to hear an unusual topic.



* * *

The 2012 OAS Spring Dig is May 25 through June 3 at the Bryson-Paddock site in north central Oklahoma.

OAS volunteers will be joining site director Richard Drass of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey and his colleagues, Susan Vehik from the University of Okla-

homa and Stephen Perkins of Oklahoma State University.

I want to give a special thank you to all three for providing OAS members this privileged opportunity to excavate with them.

I also want to give a very, very special thank you to Frieda O'Dell, Tulsa. She has donated much needed excavation equipment to the OAS. Contributions like this help make our digs a success.

* * *

As a reminder, please send announcements of OAS Chapter meetings to the OAS gmail account at okla.anthro.society@gmail.com. That helps get out the word on what our OAS local chapters are doing.

We are asking that you please send it at least a week in advance of a meeting. That gives members a chance to plan to attend.

In addition, OAS has a Facebook page that archeologist Scott Hammerstedt has been graciously administrating for us. We quickly get news and updates on local chapter meetings.

This offers us the opportunity to spread the word of the events OAS is providing at these local chapters for our members, and potential new members, throughout the state.

I hope to see everyone at the programs we offer this year. It gives me an opportunity to meet each of you.

Donations?

Donations are always welcome at the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

Given either in cash or material goods, they help defray the rising costs of non-profit programs. Of course, they are tax deductible.

Gifts will be gratefully recognized in the OAS Newsletter or, if you wish, remain confidential.

If you are interested in donating, please contact OAS President Debra Baker at baker1994@sbcglobal.net

OAS Membership Form

I would like my copy of OAS Trowel Marks emailed to me at: _____

- () **Active** \$20 Receive the annual OAS Bulletin and quarterly OAS Newsletter *Trowel Marks*.
- () **Student** \$10 Same as Active, but limited to full-time students. Enclose copy of Student ID.
- () **Contributing** \$35 Receive issues annually of the *OAS Bulletin*, the quarterly OAS Newsletter *Trowel Notes*, and all *Memoirs* published by the Society during the subscription period.
- () **Sustaining** \$45 Receive issues the annual *OAS Bulletin*, the quarterly Newsletter *Trowel Notes*, and all *Memoirs* published by the Society during the subscription period.
- () **Associate** \$5 for one additional member of your immediate family, \$10 for two or more.
- () **Life** \$500 Provides all benefits of a Sustaining membership throughout the lifetime of member.
- () **Institutional Domestic** \$35 () Institutional Canada/Mexico \$40 () Institutional Other \$45
- () **OAS New Member Handbook** \$6. Recommended for new members. Everything you need to know about the Society: its history, meetings, field activities, publication series, and more.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Cell () _____ Email address _____

To become a member or renew membership in the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, fill out this form and send it with a check or money order to Cathy Compton, OAS Treasurer, 401 NW 46 Terrace, Oklahoma City, OK 73118.

Spring meeting takes forensic theme

(Continued from Page 1)

said OAS President Debra Baker, Lawton. Tickets are \$10 each, available at the door, and include lunch at the museum

Speakers and their topics are:

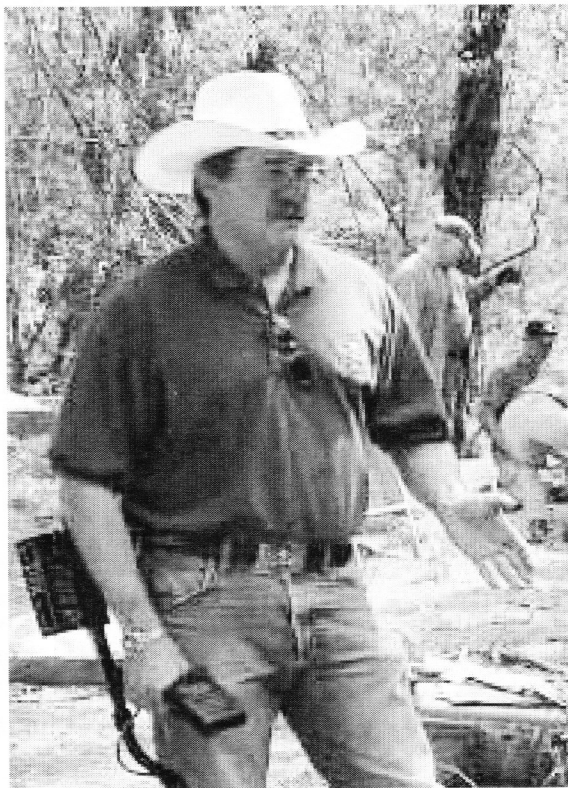
Kent Buehler presents separate lectures on "Forensic Archeology in Oklahoma" and "The Sandman: Enigma from the Past."

Angela Berg, an anthropologist with the state Medical Examiner's office, presents "Physical Anthropology Techniques in the Medicolegal Context."

Heather Ketchum, OU zoology professor, discusses "Buggin' You to Death: An introduction to Forensic Entomology."

Richard Russell, University of Oklahoma graduate student, presents "Paleopathological Influence in Forensic Anthropology."

The day's conference opens with registration at 8 a.m. President Baker



Kent Buehler teaching a forensic class in 2011.

presides at an 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Board of Directors meeting that precedes speakers.

The program pauses briefly at 11:15 a.m. for an annual OAS General Meeting. After lunch and a chance to see exhibits at

the museum, Awards Chairman Mary McHard, Oklahoma City, makes brief OAS presentations.

Baker extends a special invitation to see the museum's ProtoJudy Mammoth exhibit and learn more about the Cooperton site. She is the archaeologist for the Institute of the Great Plains at the museum.

According to the Oklahoma Historical Society's *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, Cooperton has been controversial since its 1961 excavation near the Wichita Mountains.

The Cooperton mammoth bones are accompanied by what may be human tools, although "the bones are several millennia older than the generally accepted dates for North American mammoth kill sites," according to the OHS posting.

The museum recently learned of renewed interest in redating the Cooperton bones. Technology has advanced in intervening years.

Now advanced carbon 14 techniques can offer a more exact measurement, Baker said.

Similar testing is possible for the Grandfield Mammoth, also known as the ProtoJudy site in Tillman County.

The OAS meeting ends by 5 p.m.

Information on the meeting is available from President Baker at baker1994@sb-cglobal.net.

OAS Board gets good news in membership, finance reports

Board members got good news on finances and membership at the January meeting of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

The session was held at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey in Norman.

Treasurer Cathy Compton said at the end of the 2011, OAS income outpaced expenses for the first time in three years.

Membership also climbed in 2011, with almost 70 new members joining the Society, she said.

Parliamentarian Charles

Cheatham presented written changes recommended for the bylaws. Members will vote at the Annual Meeting April 14.

Dorothy "Dot" Linn, Edmond, was introduced as Membership Chairman. She is assisting the Treasurer.

Christi Madden, Moore, replaced Mary McHard as Chairman of Publication storage and sales. Mary remains Awards Chairman.

Dig Committee Chairman Andy Slaucitajs, Tulsa, said the annual Spring Dig is May 25-June 3 at the Bryson-Paddock site.

Spring Program Chairman Jon Denton said plans for the annual OAS meeting are set for April 14 at the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton. The Lawton OAS

Chapter is host. The theme is "Forensic Archeology in Oklahoma." The \$10 entry fee includes a catered lunch at the museum.

Certification chairman Amanda Regnier is asking members to check a syllabus of classes needed to complete training.

Scott Hammerstedt said the next *Memoir* to be published by OAS may be ready for Board consideration by the April meeting.

OAS *Bulletin* editor Bob Brooks said three articles are being prepared for inclusion. A fourth article will be added to make the publication cost-effective.

(Official January minutes will be presented for Board approval at the April 14 Annual Meeting).

OAS seeks archival materials

Back copies of OAS publications are valuable. They help fill gaps in the OAS archives, an important resource for research. Archive materials can be donated by contacting Christi Madden, Publications Chair. She can even have materials picked up. Contact Christi Madden at christi-madden@ouh-sc.edu

Dale McHard: In Memoriam

Veteran OAS leader Dale McHard, 78, died in January after illness. His legacy of public service, family man, Christian stalwart and skilled amateur archeologist will long be remembered.

Dale died Jan. 8, 2012. He is survived by wife of 50 years, Mary McHard; a brother, Don McHard; and Dale and Mary's children, Dale Jr. and Janet, and their spouses. Dale had four grandchildren, Elizabeth, Meredith, Ridge and William.

Services were held Jan. 20 at United Methodist Church of the Servant.

Dale possessed a quick sense of humor, and when the occasion arose, his dry wit was followed by a laugh cherished by his friends. His steady presence and enduring curiosity will be greatly missed.

A native of Blackwell, Dale spent most of his career with the State of Oklahoma. He was a chemical engineer and industrial hygienist. He rose to State Director of Occupational and Radiological Health, a post he held for



Dale and Mary McHard each received the OAS Golden Trowel awards for their dedicated service to state archeology.

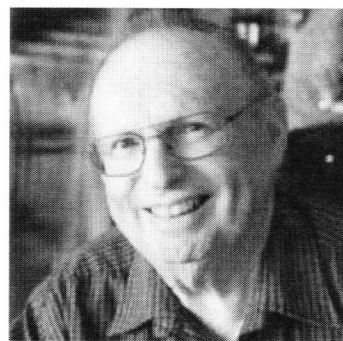
decades.

He helped author the original Air Quality Act, a bill eventually signed into law. He and his staff relished the role of detectives in a search for lost radioactive sources. For that accomplishment he won a governor's commendation.

Through his life, Dale supported Christian organizations in Oklahoma City. He was active in Skyline Urban Ministries with donations of time and money. He became a lay chaplain at the Church of the Servant in Oklahoma City, ministering to families during their difficult times.

Youthful military duty as an officer with the Ordinance Corp. and Corp. of Engineers prepared him for his years in the field, both with the state and while digging and directing the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

He and Mary would drive their RV to the dig sites, sometimes accompanied by Dale Jr.'s children, where they would work shoulder to shoulder with archeologists and volunteers in recover-



ing and preserving a unique Oklahoma past.

On OAS digs Dale could be found eagerly troweling away in a dirt square, taking shade under his signature Tilley Duck hat. He told anybody who asked, and a few who didn't, that the hat would survive the ordeal of a trip through an elephant's digestive system. How he knew that remained his secret.

Dale clearly had a passion for uncovering relics and artifacts from Oklahoma's past. He became OAS President in 1999. Later he served as Dig Chairman, a post he held until 2009. In 2006 he and Mary received the prestigious OAS Golden Trowel Awards.

Members to vote on bylaw, director changes at Spring Meeting

In addition to hearing speakers, members will vote on bylaw changes and routine elections of officers and At-Large-Directors at the Annual Spring Meeting of the Oklahoma Anthropological Meeting.

Board Meeting registration begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 14, at the Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton.

Parliamentarian Charles Cheatham, Oklahoma City, is preparing the bylaw changes. While members are asked to check the OAS Website <http://www.ou.edu/cas/archaeology/oas/> for a full text of suggested changes, an abbreviated version is presented below.

Jon Denton, Mustang, heads the Nomination Committee. Members will

vote on Treasurer and Secretary offices and At-Large-Director positions. An Assistant Secretary-Treasurer position will be left vacant.

Officers serve two year terms. At-Large-Directors serve three year terms.

OAS bylaws considered for change are:

Limit election to one office at a time.

Currently, OAS bylaws permit board members to serve in multiple director positions at the same time. A person holding an unexpired OAS At-Large Director position can be elected as an OAS officer (which gives that person an automatic second director position).

As proposed, the bylaw change prevents that. The bylaw change would en-

courage more people to participate on the Board.

As proposed, if an At-Large-Director is elected an officer, the At-Large-Director position held by that person would automatically become vacant. It could then be filled by election of someone else for the rest of the At-Large-Director term.

Similarly, someone's role as a Chapter Representative (a director position) would automatically become vacant if that person is elected as an At-Large Director or becomes an OAS officer (also a board position).

The bylaw changes would require someone else to be elected to the Chapter Representative (director) position after an individual steps up to takes an officer or

At-Large Director position.

Fill vacant At-Large-Director positions

At-Large-Directors serve three years. Currently, the bylaws only allow a vacant director position to be filled by a vote of the OAS members at a spring or fall meeting. This results in a position remaining vacant too long before someone else can take over as a director.

The bylaws change states if a director position becomes vacant before the term ends, the board could elect someone to fill the position for the balance of the term.

Spring Dig heads to Bryson-Paddock site

(Continued from Page 1)

inside trench held small, covered structures. They allowed non-combatants to hide from enemy raids and missiles.

The Wichita's familiar beehive houses were possibly located in the fields beyond the inner circle.

The site's outside trenches held wooden stockade fences above ramparts — clearly defensive structures. Were the outside trenches close to the village at first, then expanded as the village grew? Did the trenches change purpose over time, and the outer defense become an inner cover? How do you tell the difference?

"That's why we need to go down and look at the bottom of the trenches," Dr. Drass said. "That will tell us how they were used."

Looking at the archeologist's site map overlay, compiled over several seasons of excavation, he makes several observations:

-- Only a small part of the village has been excavated. At its greatest expansion, the site may have extended over 30 acres, spilling toward the Arkansas River on the east.

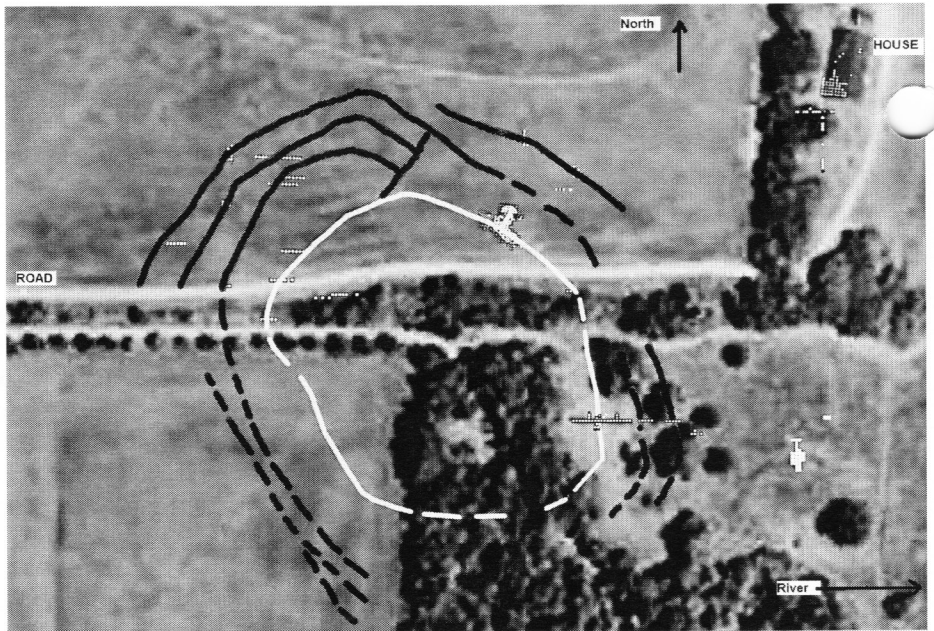
-- White dots on the site map are excavation squares. Excavation reveals an Indian village visited by French fur traders. Thousands of artifacts have appeared since excavation started in 2003.

Emerging artifacts include French flint lock gun parts, kettle fragments, knives, tinklers and glass beads. Also appearing are native tools—scrapers, points, bone hoes, and pottery.

-- Dash lines are suspected trenches but need more research to identify their purpose.

-- Solid lines on the map indicate ditches about 4 meters wide. The inner solid line ditches form a circle. Post molds found inside the trench appear to have supported a grass thatch roof. The roofed trench created a subterranean hideout about 3 feet deep.

"It's possible they were hidey-holes. You see the same kind of thing at the



An excavation map of the Bryson-Paddock site indicates an inner circle of a stockade fort (yellow lines) and outer lines of trenches (red).

Longest Site on the Red River. They were the same people," Dr. Drass said.

"We're not finding many tools in those areas. It's possible the structures were all burned, with nothing left on the floor of the structures."

Whether they were burned by the occupants or by attackers remains to be proven.

-- The first solid line outside the circle appears to be a fortification ditch

It was dug about 20 meters from the covered trench. Dirt from the fortification ditch was piled inside. A stockade was probably constructed on the dirt parapet.

"Thus, you had a ditch similar to a moat with a parapet of dirt inside and a stockade on top," Dr. Drass said.

"This matches the historic descriptions of the Longest site on the Red River. The difference at Bryson-Paddock is that there are more ditches outside of these two. These are probably expansions of the fort."

Questions still exist about the inner circle and its immediate neighbor, a fortification ditch. They were eventually filled and new ditches were constructed to create an even bigger area.

"We don't yet know if these were pairs of hidey-hole and fort ditches, or simply fort ditches," Dr. Drass said.

Accomodations

The 2012 OAS Spring Dig is May 25-June 3 at Bryson-Paddock near Ponca City. Excavation hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dig Director Richard Drass will be at the site earlier in the week to set up the grid and prepare excavation units. To help, he can be contacted at rdrass@ou.edu.

Camping is available at the Corps of Engineers campgrounds on Kaw Lake. Space is limited during the Memorial Day weekend. Registration information is available at <http://www.kawlake.com/camping-information/>

Numerous hotels and motels can be found in nearby Ponca City. Camp Central is the same as in 2009, the Econo Lodge in Ponca City (580) 762-3401. OAS members get a discount on room rate by mentioning the OAS during registration. Call early.

A carpool at the hotel will motor to and from the dig site each day.

Reaching the site

Go to Newkirk. At the stop light on State Highway 77, go north four miles and turn right (east) on the section road (Gate Road). Take this road 5.25 miles and turn south on the section road. Follow the OAS signs for a half-mile south. You are there.

The site gate will be locked before and after each day's dig. Camping is not available at the dig site.

Wichita moved south to avoid hostilities

Longest Red River site more than a coincidence

Before excavation started at Bryson-Paddock, the most extensive fortified 18th century Wichita village known in Oklahoma was on the Red River.

The Jefferson County site bears more than a coincidental likeness to Bryson-Paddock site, found far north on the Arkansas River.

Located about 15 miles south of Ringling, the Longest Site is named after a family who farmed in the area for many years. The site covers 35 to 40 acres, sits high on a broad terrace, and is protected from flooding by its elevation.

Longest was occupied by people from Bryson-Paddock and nearby Deer Creek. Historic visitors said within the fortification at Longest, covered subterranean structures held supplies and noncombatants during attacks.

Early aerial photos showed a large circular stain in the soil similar to those at other archeological sites in Oklahoma: The Duncan and Deer Creek sites, also believed to be Wichita.

The Longest topography encouraged archeologists to dig deeper. In 1965-1966, excavations revealed a Taovayas village. In a fortunate turn, the village appears in Spanish records of a ill-fated military expedition by Spanish Col. Diego Ortiz Parrilla.

Archeologists say the circular stain represents evidence of a ditch and log stockade constructed by the Wichita to protect the village. Circular depressions with posthole patterns, trash mounds, storage pits and many European (mostly French) trade items, along

with traditional Wichita artifacts, were found.

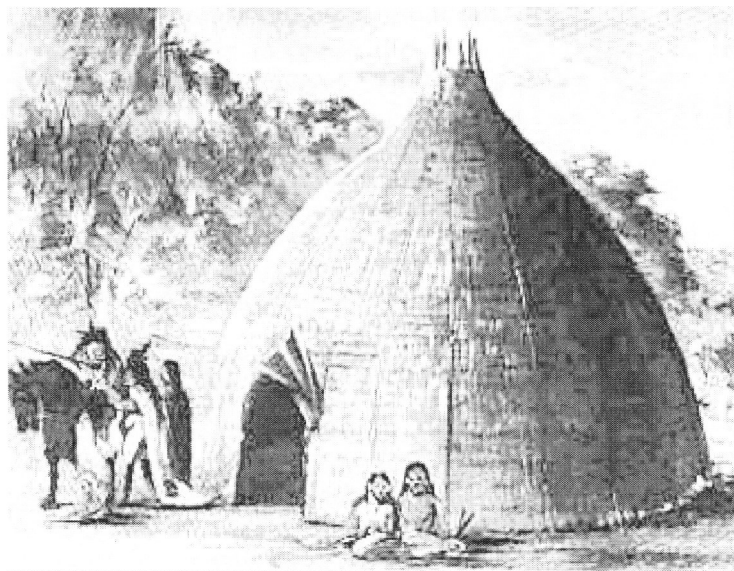
In the first part of the 18th century, Wichita groups lived along the Arkansas River in north Oklahoma. They carried on a lively trade with French trappers. However, by the mid-1700s, the Indians migrated to the Red River. It is thought they moved to escape increasing harassment by hostile northern tribes, principally the Osage.

Persistent as ever, the French followed the Wichita. The two continued trade, using the Red River as a primary water route to and from Louisiana.

Meanwhile, Spanish missionaries established a mission near modern-day Menard, northwest of today's Austin, Texas. A fort under the direction of Col. Diego Ortiz Parrilla was charged with protection.

Unfortunately, the Spanish mission was a hotbed of Indian activity.

The Wichita and their Comanche and Tonkawa allies had attacked and destroyed the San Saba mission near Menard. The mission supported their enemies, the Apache.



Round, grass thatch houses made up the Taovayas village outside the Longest Site stockade on the Red River, the same cultural pattern found at Bryson-Paddock on the Arkansas River.

Responding to the attack, Col. Parrilla marched a force of 500 from San Antonio to the Taovayas village on the Red River in 1759.

During the ensuing battle, the Wichita warriors attacked and forced the Spanish and their Apache allies to flee. In their haste the Spanish abandoned two cannons. The big guns proved to be ineffectual in the deep sands on the banks of the Red River.

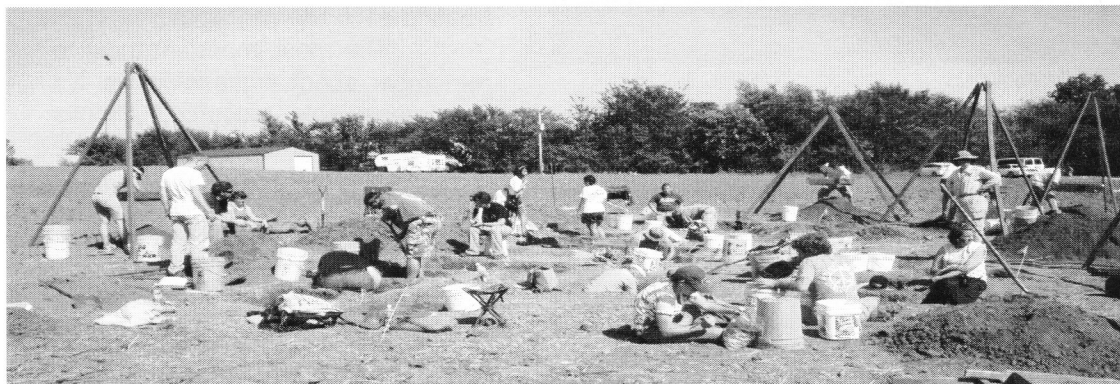
Accounts of the battle and impressions of the Taovayas village have been translated from the original Spanish documents. Eyewitnesses said along the north side of the Red River, the Taovayas took cover in a

circular stockade protected by an earthen rampart and moat.

According to the Spanish, the stockade had underground tunnels that sheltered people during an attack. Round, grass-thatch houses made up the Taovayas village outside the stockade. The Spanish reported extensive corn fields near the villages.

A Comanche camp of tipis, along with the village of another band of Wichita, were reported in the immediate area. The Wichita and their allies had many horses and were well-armed.

-- Source: *Oklahoma Archeological Survey*



A day of digging at the Bryson-Paddock site turned out a full force of OAS volunteers in 2009.

Oklahoma archeology in the news

Archeology helps history fill in pieces of the puzzle

Oklahoma archeology had a wealth of attention in recent months. Among the articles and television broadcasts:

Archeology is helping fill in pieces of the historic puzzle in Oklahoma, Max Nichols said in his "Discover Oklahoma" column. Appearing Feb. 26 in *The Oklahoman*, the article surveyed the rich archeological presence in the state.

Nichols noted the vast collection of artifacts at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, Norman.

He quoted archeologist Dennis Peterson at Spiro Mounds. "Artifacts indicate that Spiro leaders developed political and religious ties with people from the Gulf of California to the Gulf of Mexico and from the coast of Virginia to the Great



State archeologist Bob Brooks on a 2005 survey.

Lakes ... They shared horticulture, elaborate mound building and a picture-writing system with more than 60 tribes," Peterson said.

Other examples of archeology filling in history are at Honey Springs Battlefield where the site owner, the Oklahoma Historical Society, has laid out trails and interpretive signs.

At Fort Towson, visitors can see military barracks, buttons, musical instruments, fine china

and wine glasses.

Nichols also mentions the Civil War plantation of Choctaw leader Robert M. Jones. And at Doaksville, visitors can get an overview of the first capitol of the Choctaw Nation.

Object I.D. Day earned attention in a Feb. 24 story in *The Oklahoman*.

Held Sunday, Feb. 26 at Norman's Museum of Natural History, the event invited visitors to bring natural history objects to the experts.

They offered to identify materials of interest in archeology, ethnology, genomic resources, reptiles, amphibians, fish, paleontology, mammals, Native American languages, paleobotany, and insects.

As many as 1,500 people were expected to visit the museum.

"Archeologists shed light on human life" said the headline in a Feb. 19 story in *The Oklahoman*. Reporter Tiffany Brown examined the work of biological archeologist Janna Gruber, owner of Open Range Archaeology in Moore.

"For every site you work on, there will always be something about it you find intriguing," Gruber said. "The neatest thing I've found is a whole town."

State archeologist Robert Brooks pointed out the importance of treating each site as fragile.

"The most important thing to remember about archaeology is: It's a nonrenewable resource," Brooks said. "Unless we can rescue or save or preserve that location, we can't bring it back. And what it has to tell us about the past is gone forever."

Law officers called for an archeologist and entomologist to examine the remains of Jaymie Adams, found near Lake Stanley Draper. She was reported missing by her husband in the early hours of Dec. 10.

In a Jan. 13 story in *The Oklahoman* and on KOCO-TV, the role of



Excavators uncover the stone sidewalk at the Rose Hill plantation near Hugo.

forensic scientists was assessed by Clyde Snow, Norman, one of the nation's best-known forensic anthropologists.

Archeologists and entomologists are often summoned by investigators to look at bodies that have been dead, and in some cases buried "for extended periods of time," Snow said.

"They will also make sure everything is properly collected, cataloged and interpreted ... Because of that, archeologists can be very valuable in certain cases ... looking over the scene where an incident might have taken place."

Entomologists, who study insects, are enlisted to help determine time of death, he said.

Archeological artifacts with biblical significance are in a display at the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation Auditorium, Edmond.

Two clay seals, or bullae, found by archeologist Eliat Mazar a few yards apart in Jerusalem, have joined the display.

Each about the size of a dime, the bullae bear the names of two princes who tried to kill the prophet Jeremiah, according to the Bible.

The exhibit "Seals of Jeremiah" (Continued next page)

Spiro

(Continued from Page 1)

netometers – to show patterns beneath the soil. Unlike most archeology, the survey does not disturb the topography or what is beneath it.

The primary researcher, archaeologist Scott Hammerstedt of the Oklahoma Survey, will survey until the entire 150-acre site has been mapped.

The survey is already changing how the site is viewed, said Dr. Peterson.

"While artifacts do not show up using these techniques, large patterns like house floors or storage pits are visible," he said.

Although Phase 1 data is still being processed, initial information indicates new houses and some unusual patterns.

The survey continues in March. Any discoveries will be researched later.

The Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is Oklahoma's only prehistoric Native American archeological site open to the public.

The Archaeological Center is open year-round. It is three miles east of Spiro on State Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road. For more information, call (918) 962-2062.



From left, Scott Hammerstedt of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, and George Sabo and John Samuelson of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, work with a magnetometer at Spiro Mounds.

Archeology in the news

(Continued from Page 8)

emiah's Captors Discovered!" includes about three dozen artifacts from Israel's First Temple period, according to a Dec. 18 story in *The Oklahoman*.

"It's not often that such discoveries happen in which real figures of the past shake off the dust of history and so vividly revive the stories of the Bible," Mazar said in a news release.

Other artifacts including figurines, royal seal impressions, and one of the largest ancient vessels ever found in Jerusalem.

Edmond's Herbert W. Armstrong College provided support for Mazar's excavations in the City of David and at Solomon's wall.

Admission to the exhibit is free and open through Oct. 16 at Armstrong Auditorium, 14400-B S Bryant.

Army Corps of Engineers archeologist Michelle Horn said a re-



An upgrade of the Jean Pierre Chouteau National Recreational Trail may be delayed so archeologists can check out the existence of Indian burials.

view may delay an upgrade of the Jean Pierre Chouteau National Recreational Trail and Clinkenbeard Park.

The town of Fort Gibson has a \$150,000 grant for the project, according to a Jan. 3 story in *The Muskogee Phoenix*.

Funds acquired in May 2010 cover resurfacing about a mile of trail and making park improvements.

The trail, named for the pioneer fur trader who spent time in the area, follows the McClell-

an-Kerr Arkansas Navigation System.

Officials recently discovered a hand-drawn map purportedly showing the existence of American Indian burial sites in or near Clinkenbeard Park.

Horn said such cases require historic preservation laws be followed. The review may require months, she said.

OAS certification due reorganization

A major update is underway on the OAS Certification Program, said coordinator Amanda Regnier.

The Norman archeologist will present a new plan at the OAS Spring Meeting April 14 in Lawton. Her outline includes:

-- Substituting directed readings for the outdated lecture videos.

Readings will focus the archeological time periods of Oklahoma, paleo through proto-historic.

Internet access will make the readings easily available, said Dr. Regnier, a staff member of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey.

-- Identifying and scheduling classes needed for completion. In recent months members have been asked to identify classes they have and those they need to take to qualify for the archeological levels prescribed in the OAS handbook.

Reviews

Jon Denton
Reviews Editor

Artifacts from the Craig Mound at Spiro, Oklahoma

By April K. Sievert
with J. Daniel Rogers
Smithsonian Contributions
to Anthropology No. 49
Smithsonian Institution
Scholarly Press,
Washington, D.C.
Intro XIV with 231 pages,
163 figures, 11 plates, 48
tables
Copies are free
ISBN 0081-0223 print,
1943-6661 online

Review by Larry Merriam

The Spiro Mounds site is the most significant archeological feature in Oklahoma.

Publication of Sievert and Rogers' review of artifacts from this important site has been much anticipated -- at least by me. I've been waiting almost 10 years for the Smithsonian to find money to finish the work.

The result has not been disappointing.

Any serious student of Oklahoma archeology needs to know Spiro Mounds. This work provides an opportunity to learn a little or learn a lot about Spiro culture and the history of explorations at the principal feature, Craig Mound.

When I get a new book, I like to flip through the pages to get a feel for what's inside. In *Artifacts from the Craig Mound*, you will see lots of high quality black and white photographs of some

of the 20,000 artifacts in the Smithsonian Spiro collection. You also get many drawings, which help introduce the amazing items found in the mound.

Numerous tables summarize the great volume of information in this monograph. My only disappointment is that the Smithsonian chose to publish just 11 plates in color.

As a serious student of Spiro culture, I sat down and read the book cover-to-cover. This may not be an approach every reader will want to follow, because I see the book serving two different purposes.

First, it is an introduction for those not familiar with Spiro's importance and history. It updates the latest thinking about the societies that occupied Spiro during the mound building periods.

Begin by reading the abstract, which promotes the book and offers a good introduction. I enjoyed the first three paragraphs of the Preface to gain an understanding of Sievert's history with the collection and how she came to recognize its significance and appreciate the culture that created it.

But by reading Rogers' Chapter 1, one can quickly go from novice to knowledgeable. You will learn the vital historical context of the site as you follow the chronology of Spiro's evolution.

Chapter 2 covers Spiro's troubled archeological history. You will learn about the early digging at Spiro and the site's later excavations by professionals. This concludes with James Brown's

"New Synthesis" of what happened at Spiro.

If you remember what you read, you are now a freshly minted expert on Spiro. All that remains to explore are the artifacts. Understanding them can lead you to many interesting discoveries and a lifetime of appreciation.

Chapter 3

tells how the collection came to be housed at the Smithsonian. It introduces some of the important people in the history of the Mound and to this specific collection. It also details how the artifacts were classified and the attributes that were examined.

At this point, if you are new to Spiro or just interested in an introduction to the amazing world of Spiro Culture, I would suggest you take a less systematic approach.

Which brings us to the second function of the book.

It offers a comprehensive review of a remarkable assembly of artifacts. According to the abstract, it provides "an almost unique glimpse into the ceremonial life and artistic innovations of a people who developed an important ... cultural tradition."

Chapters 4 through 9 classify the artifacts. They examine those groups in a systematic, although sometime tedious fashion. Yet this is absolutely necessary to document the collection and make it a useful resource.

Even so, as readers you can pick and chose what you want to learn, as well as when and in what detail.

Despite a deep interest in the subject, I sometimes get bogged down in the

details. So first scan through the chapters, look at the photographs and read the captions.

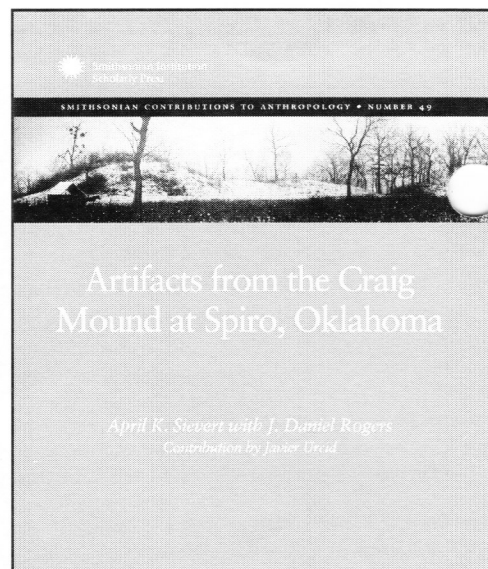
Find what seems most interesting at the moment. Just looking at the pictures and studying the tables can reveal lots of information.

You gain great knowledge by reading the introductory material in each chapter subtopic. Go back and read in detail when you want to know more about a specific artifact or artifact type. In short, use the book as the excellent resource it is meant to be.

Case in point: My first love has always been arrowheads -- or as the book calls them, "Chipped Lithic Weaponry." I am disappointed that arrowhead types were assigned based on statistical attributes that may have no relevance to the purpose of the maker of the points. I believe this approach leads to incorrect point type classifications.

For example, under the reference to the Hayes point, you read, "None of the nine points really have pointed bases, which according to Bell (1958:32) is a fundamental characteristic." I believe it doesn't have this feature, it is simply not a Hayes point! I suspect others would agree.

As said earlier, the
(Continued next page)



Fetid odor big difference in pie melon, buffalo gourd

By Neil Garrison

Recently we received a letter with an intriguing question. OAS member Jon Harris of Berkeley, Calif, wrote:

When I was a kid in the 50's, living in Jefferson County five miles west of Ryan near the Red River, there was an interesting plant, quite common but now disappeared, which we called pie melon.

As I recall, the vines resembled watermelon vines. The fruit was green-striped, like some varieties of watermelon, but was round like a cantaloup, and hard.

We kids enjoyed seeing if we could break a pie melon by throwing it on the concrete, but it couldn't be done. You cut it open (I think we used an axe!), and instead of having a red watery interior, it looked more like watermelon rind all the way through.

I wonder if you might be able to enlighten me about this mysterious plant?

There are a couple of very different plants that share your description of "a small, round fruit with green stripes." One of these plants is the pie melon. The other plant is the buffalo gourd.

Let's talk about both.

The pie melon is assigned the scientific name

Cucurbita ficifolia. Another common name for this plant is fig leaf gourd. The leaves are very similar in shape to those on a fig tree.

I wonder if farmers in the 1950's planted the pie melon in their fields. From what little information I could gather, it seems that this domesticated variety of plant has pretty well gone out of favor in today's U.S. agriculture. As you mentioned, it is not seen in markets.

On the other hand, the buffalo gourd has definitely not disappeared, al-

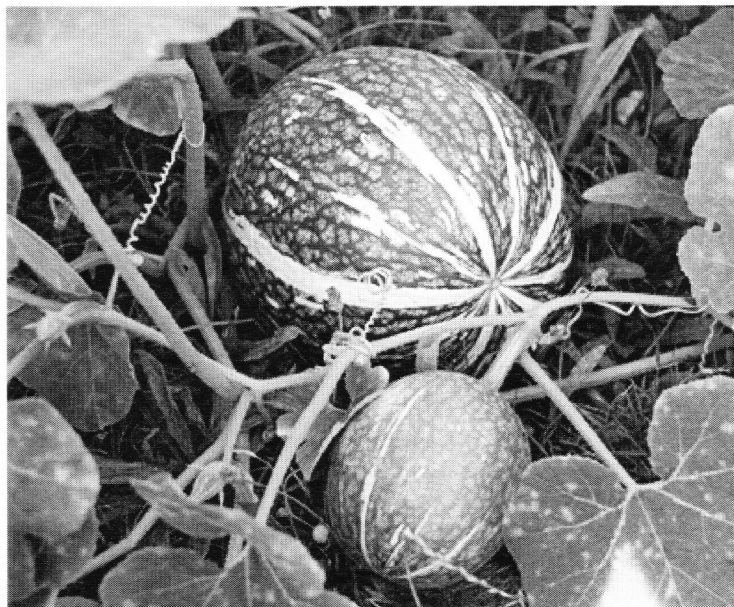
Pioneer plants

though you won't see it in the grocery either. It is a hardy, native plant that can easily be found in many roadside areas where the soil is sandy.

Cucurbita foetidissima is the scientific name for the buffalo gourd. While the fruit shape, size and coloring is almost a perfect match, the leaves do not look anything like the fig leaf gourd.

Another common name for this plant is foetid pumpkin. The leaves, when crushed, give off an unpleasant odor. Thus another name for the fruit of the vine, the stinking gourd.

When the plant is not



The pie melon, or fig leaf gourd, has leaves similar to those on a fig tree and may have been planted and harvested in the 1950s.

molested, it is inoffensive. However, I once made the mistake of crushing one of this plant's leaves and placing it near my nose. That is an experiment that I won't be repeating!

To learn more, there's an interesting Internet site titled "Texas Beyond History." It has a wealth of information for those interested in Native American use of wild plants. Scientists there include lots of credible information of value to those of us in states that adjoin Texas, where we share many of the native plants.

According to that source, archeologists have ample evidence that the ancient people of this part of the world used the seeds of the buffalo gourd as food, especially roasted or boiled. Other

experts cite its use as seed oil and root starch.

As to your comment regarding this plant's scarcity, my reply would be "Come visit me and my world!" Ha! I live in central Oklahoma. My home is on the north side of one of the region's major rivers, the North Canadian.

This river runs west to east. In the summer, the winds blow from the south. As a consequence, the north side of the river has lots and lots of sand dunes.

The south winds lift the sand out of the riverbed and deposits it on the north side of the channel. There you can find many places where the buffalo gourd flourishes. It is a very common plant.

Hope this answers your question. It's always great to hear from our members in California.

Neil Garrison is a nationally known naturalist and the retired director of Martin Park Nature Center in Oklahoma City.

Reviews

(Continued from Page 10)

best way to improve the book would be to add more color photographs. The 11 plates showing engraved shell pieces are great, but not that colorful.

Hopefully, it will be possible to make color pictures of the artifacts available

at a website where they can be seen and appreciated by the general public.

In summary, Sievert and Rogers' book is a valuable addition to the documentation of a truly remarkable prehistoric Oklahoma people. I recommend it for anyone wanting to know more about

Spiro.

The book can be ordered at <http://www.scholarlypress.si.edu/content.cfm?page=order>

OAS member Larry Merriam, Oklahoma City, is coauthor of the "The Spiro Mound, a Photo Essay," written with his son Christopher.

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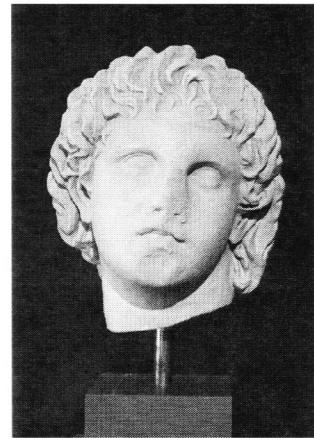
After given free reign in Greek Ionian region, Ali Pasha lost his head

Editor's Note: In this series on archeology travel, veteran adventurer and OAS member Guy Folger, McAlester, continues his journey through Greece.

By Guy Folger

When last we checked in, I was on the west coast of Greece in the Mitikas-Preveza area. A Navy buddy and Greek resident, Dino Groseclose, and I were on a long scouting trip when we discovered the Fortress of Pantokrator.

The fort dates to the time of Ali Pasha, about 1810. Ali Pasha, as you may recall (or may not, depending on your knowledge of Greek history), was the murderous despot of the Ionian region of Greece.



Alexander's bust in the Pella Museum.

The fortress, once a magnificent structure, now is graffiti-ridden and sadly in deterioration. Even so, extending as it does into the Ionian Sea, it is picturesque, historically significant and a great attraction. It simply needs restored.

Finally, back on the long road, we set out for Vergina, a small town in northern Greece. There we find the tomb of King Phillip II of Macedon. Phillip, of course, was the first ruler to unite the whole of Greece and father of Alexander the Great.

The tomb and the surrounding museum, established at the site of ancient Aigai, is impressive. The museum, opened 1993, was built to protect the burials, exhibit the artifacts and show the tumulus as it was before excavations.

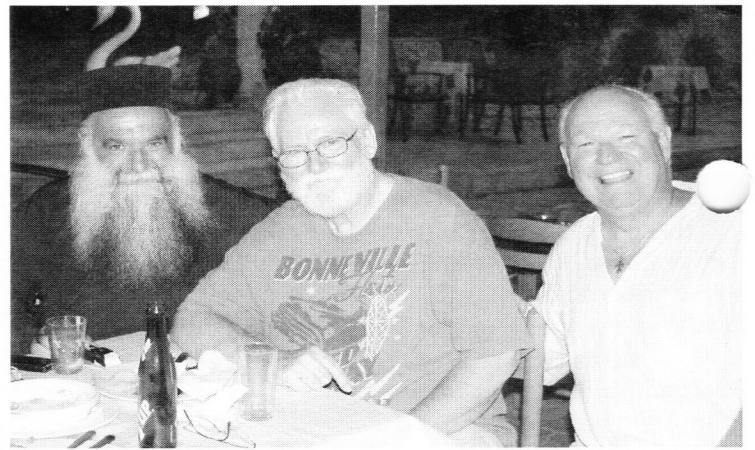
Moving right along, we head for Pella, the birthplace of both Phillip II and his son. While growing up there, Alexander was tutored by the great philosopher Aristotle.

The museum at Pella is

Although he was Albanian, the Turks placed him in position of authority in 1822. He gained fame as The Lion, fighting with great bravery against rebels.

When the Turks realized he was trying to establish his own little kingdom, they sent assassins from Istanbul to hunt Ali Pasha down. Finding him on the island of Nisi, where he had fled, they shot and beheaded him.

As they say, don't mess with the Turks.



Papa Christo, the Guido, and friend Dino Groseclose enjoy a Greek meal in Oropos.

awesome, most notably for its pebble mosaics dating to about 300 B.C. This is must-see item in Greece, especially since Alexander has long been one of my heroes. I really enjoyed learning more about him.

Ah, to once again walk in the footsteps of the greats – or as my readers know, limp from site to site. Guido may have been gimpy, but he was determined.

Next we prepare for travel to the Macedonian holy city of Dion located at the base of Mount Olympus, the home of the Greek gods.

Both Alexander and his father used Dion as a military encampment before venturing on their conquests. The ancient biographer Plutarch chronicled how Alexander, when yet a boy in Dion, met his favorite horse, Bucephalus.

Said to be one of the great war horses of antiquity, Bucephalus was a giant creature with a massive head. Alexander surprised all by subduing and taming the wild-eyed mount, much to his father's surprise. The horse went on to serve Alexander in many battles.

The museum at Dion is extensive. The site requires a whole lot of walking, but is well worth the effort. The large archeological park there includes a Roman mosaic floor. Illustrations show the ancient Greeks' ingenious water supply and heating and drainage systems.

Leaving Dion, we head back toward Mitikas, but with a planned stop in Oropos to visit a friend of my friend. He turns out to be a Greek Orthodox priest, Father Christopher, better known as Papa Christo.

Papa Christo and my friend have been known to distill some rather potent beverages. Though Papa Christo spoke very little English and I spoke only a couple words of Greek, we became fast friends. He, of course, had an enormous beard that made mine look like peach fuzz, a point he reminded of more than once.



Although much neglected, the Fortress of Pantokrator is well worth seeing.

Next issue: Guido continues his Greek odyssey with tips on dealing with the faltering Euro.

Council fires

A fictional account based on historic fact

By Seth Hawkins

With the arrival of the Five Nations and other immigrant tribes to new homes beyond the Mississippi, reconciliation became urgent.

The new neighbors also needed to arrange terms of peace with those people who already considered the land their own.

The decades of the 1820s through the 1840s witnessed numerous attempts to bring these tribes together. Primarily responsible for attempting to calm this chaotic crush of humanity were the Cherokee and the Creek.

The problems were daunting. Continual theft of beef, horses and mules, the taking of captives, and attacks on homesteads and villages made life perilous.

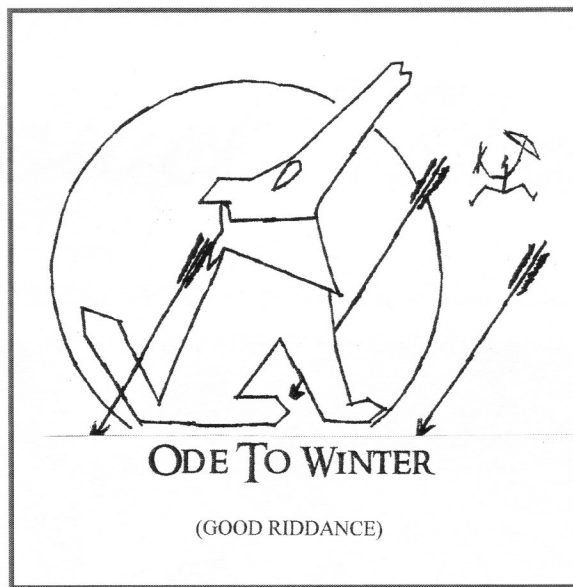
And there was more. Depredations were committed against hunting and trading parties venturing onto the western plains. Incursions across the Red River were frequent by Texans and natives alike. A constant wave of war parties swept the land in retaliation for perceived wrongs.

It was to remedy these situations that gatherings at such locations as Toluntuskee, Takatoka, Tahlequah, and along the banks of the Deep Fork River were arranged. The highly esteemed wampum and offerings of tobacco were circulated among dozens of tribes across the southern plains and beyond, summoning these nations to parlay.

Throughout the Arkansas and Red River drainage, from the prairies and woodlands east of the Cross Timbers to the High Plains far to the west, representatives of cultures as diverse as the Shawnee and Comanche, Kickapoo and Wichita, Delaware and Kiowa arrived at the council grounds. There they proceeded to haggle and coerce, negotiate and compromise, all in grand oratorical fashion.

Apart from the diplomatic aspects, the nature of these august native conventions must have overwhelmed the few Anglos present. To them it was a kaleidoscope of sights and sounds without equal.

Just imagine the scene: Laid out in wooded meadows



Seth Hawkins

intersected by gently flowing streams are makeshift shelters, tents and the various forms of native lodges. They dot the landscape into the far horizon.

As a long summer day comes to a close and the sun dips below the tree-covered hills, campfires begin to blaze. Columns of smoke sift lazily up through the canopy of oak, elm and hickory.

Tribes from throughout a vast landscape form their own distinct cultural enclaves. Numerous herds of horses graze nearby, hobbled and tethered and under the wary eye of Indian dogs.

Wafting through this far-flung encampment are evening breezes accented by the pungent aroma of boiling coffee, hot bread, and beef roasting on the spit.

A cacophony of diverse languages and dialects creates a brew soon to test the skills of the most adept interpreters.

As tribal members filter through this immense gathering, their ethnic diversity is manifest in their dress, ranging from the most refined apparel of the Anglo-influenced Cherokee to

the earthy buckskin of the Waco.

The sundry attire includes pantaloons, calico hunting shirts, breechcloths, buckskin leggings, tunics, shawls and bandannas. There are turbans adorned with plumes and crimson sashes. Ornamentation of the head, nose, ears, face, arms and torso is as distinct as it is decorative. It employs fanciful use of paints, tattoos, feathers, beads, shell gorgets and all manner of bangles.

As the evening progresses, various tribal groups parade through the throng, dancing to the raucous accompaniment of flute and drum, while giving notice of their own cultural distinction.

Greetings and salutations abound, from the strong, solid handshake of the Choctaw to the hearty forearm jerk of the Osage and the warm embrace of the Caddo.

These scenes are worthy of a gifted artist's palette. At the conclusion of the aboriginal pomp and pageantry, after all was said and done, treaties were drawn up. The people agreed.

Participants drifted off to all points of the compass, leaving behind an abbreviated but unusual period of peace and harmony.

However, these unique deliberations and their influence on relations among the inhabitants of the Southern Plains and woodlands might best be summarized by Black Dog, a noted Osage warrior.

This daunting, seven-foot statesman was said to have proclaimed, "Brothers, your talk is good but your beef is better," as his followers absconded with 30 Kiowa horses, their owners in hot pursuit.

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Membership in the Oklahoma Anthropological Society is open to any person, firm, corporation, or other entity that supports the aims and objectives of the Society. In joining the Society, members agree to abide by the conditions of any federal, state, or local antiquities and/or historic preservation laws. The disregard for proper archeological field techniques; the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data; violation of federal, state, or local antiquities and/or historic preservation laws; and/or the unauthorized use of the Society's name is censured and will provide grounds for the denial of membership applications and/or expulsion from the Society by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

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Public Library 5th and Grand, Ponca City
Contact Gary Bracken arkriverguy78@sbcglobal.net

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Contact Connie Masters samok56@yahoo.com
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