

NEWS LETTER

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

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W. G. Haag, Editor
University of Ken-
tucky
Lexington, Kentucky

FOURTH SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The Fourth Southeastern Archaeological Conference was held at Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon, Georgia, on November 10-11, in the new Monument Museum building.

J. Joe Finkelstein, Chairman
Madeline D. Kneberg, Secretary
Robert Wauchope, Chairman of Program Committee & Acting Secretary
William G. Haag, Editor of NEWS LETTER

PROGRAM

Friday, November 10th
Morning Session

- Call to order and introductory remarks by the Chairman
- Welcoming remarks by John G. Ewers, acting superintendent of Ocmulgee National Monument
- "The Archaeological Cultures of the Macon Area"
Charles Fairbanks, Archaeologist
Ocmulgee National Monument
- Tour of Ocmulgee National Monument

Afternoon Session

- "Archaeological Culture Sequences in East Tennessee"
T. M. N. Lewis
Madeline D. Kneberg
Division of Anthropology
University of Tennessee
- "Stamped and Painted Pottery on Hiwassee Island, East Tennessee"
Alice Hendrick
Division of Anthropology
University of Tennessee
- "Notes on Chipped Stone"
Andrew H. Whiteford
Division of Anthropology
University of Tennessee
- "Additional Notes on Moundville Crania"
Charles E. Snow
W.P.A. Archaeological Laboratory
Alabama Museum

"Guntersville Basin Pottery Types"
 Marion L. Dunlevy
 W. P. A. Archaeological Laboratory
 Alabama Museum

"Notes on Louisiana Archaeology"
 James A. Ford
 George Quimby
 Division of Anthropology
 Louisiana State University
 Charles E. Snow

"Preliminary Notes on the Baumer Site"
 John Bennett
 Department of Anthropology
 University of Chicago

Evening Session

"Recent Archaeological Field Work in Kentucky"
 Ralph D. Brown
 Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology
 University of Kentucky

Discussion groups

Saturday, November 11th
 Morning Session

"Preliminary Remarks on the Types of Deformation of
 Guntersville Crania"
 Charles E. Snow

"Methods in Ethno-History"
 J. Joe Finkelstein
 Division of Anthropology
 University of Tennessee

"Burial Typology"
 James B. Griffin
 Ceramic Repository
 University of Michigan

Business Meeting

Discussion of field methods

Afternoon Session

Discussion groups

REPORT OF BUSINESS MEETING

Report of editor of NEWS LETTER

Total collections for NEWS LETTER as of Nov. 3, 1939	\$37.00
Total expense for issues 1 to 5 of volume I	<u>22.70</u>
Cash on hand	\$14.30

Cost of report of minutes
of 3rd Conference

\$11.15

Approximate cost of No. 6, vol. I

2.00

Approximate cost of 3 charts

12.00\$25.15

Approximate deficits on distribution
of current issues

\$10.85

Report of Resolutions Committee

Resolution of thanks to Ocmulgee National Monument and
Mr. John C. Ewers presented and passed by rising vote.

Next meeting voted to be held in September, 1940. Invitation by James Ford to hold next conference at the Louisiana State University accepted.

Officers elected for following conference:

James A. Ford, Chairman

George Guimby, Secretary.

On motion made from floor, a rising vote of thanks was given to William G. Haag for his work on the NEWS LETTER.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

Mound C, Macon Group

Mound C is a domiciliary structure at the western edge of the Macon Plateau. Six large burial pits were dug into the village area. These contained log tombs with re-articulated and bundle burials. Multiple burials were usual. Over these pits a flat topped mound with stepped ramp on the west side was erected. The mound was capped with grey clay. On the mound surface was a water-laid sand deposit. Six additional flat-topped mound stages were constructed. One hundred ten burials were present in the various stages of Mound C, probably indicating that it supported structures associated with burial practices. Burials were flexed, extended, re-articulated or bundle. Grave goods were fairly frequent, and consisted of pottery, shell beads, celts, discoidals, conch shell dipper, copper placques and copper covered bear jaws. Intrusive historic Creek burials were present in the upper levels.

Mound C represents a component of the Macon Focus of an aspect which probably represents an early influx of Middle Mississippi. Pottery types are: Bibb Plain, Halstead Plain, Macon Thick, McDougal Plain, Hawkins Fabric Marked. This complex, with the exception of Macon Thick, is closely associated with the Small Log Town House sites of Norris Basin. The same style of plain vessels with loop handles is the chief type for each focus. Artifacts are in general similar and there is a high correlation between the trait lists. A number of Adena-like traits were noted in the log tombs. These may represent an early complex which was associated with some of the early Middle Mississippi groups.

Charles H. Fairbanks

STAMPED and PAINTED POTTERY on HIWASSEE ISLAND

Stamped and painted pottery occur on Hiwassee Island as two early types of decorated pottery that endure throughout aboriginal occupation of a mound and village site. The Complicated Stamped belongs to a foreign pottery industry that was introduced into this area from the South. Here it was adopted and the number of variants increased with its application to shell tempered pottery, the local ceramic industry. Painted pottery, indigenous to the island, occurs as a single type until approximately the time Complicated Stamped first appears on shell. At this time it grew to include two more types, one being a bowl with a painted rim on an unpainted buff body, the other, Red-on-Buff designs, composed of a number of motifs, appearing on several bowl shapes and bottles. Painted pottery decreases markedly after mound phase B, the sixth stage of mound construction.

A. S. Hendrick.

Notes on Chipped Stone

A brief description of a method used to classify chipped stone at the laboratory of the University of Tennessee....This system uses no nomenclature for barbs, tangs, corner notches, etc., but describes the various features of a piece in relation to a lateral and longitudinal axis. The sides of a triangular piece would be described as diagonal in their deviation from the longitudinal axis and a base as excurvate or incurvate in relation to the lateral axis.

On a stemmed point the shoulder and sides of the stem can be described by the same terms as are used for the sides of the blade, or the base. In this simple form the system can be applied only to pointed, symmetrical pieces, but provision has been made to treat unpointed arti^{facts} / and asymmetrical pieces can be indicated as such.

The chief advantages which have appeared in the use of this system are: its consistantly uniform results in description; its breakdown of an artifact into a series of discreet elements which are described in relation to a constant, and which may be considered singly or in any series of combinations for tabulation and typing.

A. H. Whiteford

Additional Notes on Moundville Crania

An additional sample of crania from Moundville has now been preliminarily studied and added to the already existing small series. The combined series now numbers thirty-four crania including males and females of both physical types. Quite in keeping with the suggestions outlined in the paper which was presented at the last conference held in Birmingham, there seem to be further indications of two physical types present in the Moundville burials: An undeformed longheaded type, and a roundheaded type which is characterized preponderantly by either occipital or frontal deformation or combinations of both. The physical types were separated on a somewhat arbitrarily selected basis of length-breadth or cranial index and followed through both for the Moundville and Nodena series.

An additional series, numbering twenty-five, from a site at Nodena in northeastern Arkansas, has been studied. Here, as at Moundville, the presence of two different physical types is indicated, accompanied by grave furniture including painted shell-tempered pottery.

The similarity between the longheaded types from Moundville and Nodena to those from the earlier levels of the Pickwick Basin is very close. The larger roundheaded series from Moundville and Nodena not only resemble each other closely but show striking similarities to the Koger Island type established in the Pickwick Basin.

Charles E. Snow

Preliminary Notes on the Baumer Site

The Department of Anthropology of the University of Chicago excavated the Baumer site during the field seasons of 1936 and 1939. The component is one of three found in the vicinity of Metropolis, Ill., and comprises a limestone-tempered, fabric-impressed manifestation definitely underlying the Kincaid Middle Mississippi component. The material is at present undergoing analysis at the University.

The ceramic complex is composed of three principal classes: Baumer Fabric Impressed (60%), Baumer Plain (25%), and four types of a cord-treated variety composing the remainder: (1) cord-wrapped paddle (2) cord-marked with elements composed of 2 to 4 cords arranged in rough, wide cross-hatching (3) fine, dense sherds with cord marking on upper rims and in zones on rims (4) sherds with a primary paddle (5) impression and a secondary cord marking similar to (2).

Plain and Fabric-Imprinted sherds range from badly leached, non-sandy types to dense, hard-sand-tempered sherds. Paste selected without discrimination; firing poorly controlled. Fabric Imprinted sherds give evidence of flat bases exclusively, with a cylindrical, slightly flaring-rim body form, with or without a slight constriction immediately above the base. One diminutive plain vessel displayed a conical base.

Other traits in the component: square houses, postholes around entire periphery, cylindrical and jar-shaped cache pits, large and small flake scrapers, rectangular knife or chisel, generalized woodland points, plummet stone, reel-shaped gorget, thick ovoid celt, small full-grooved axe, hematit lumps.

There is some evidence of link traits between Baumer and the grit-tempered cord-marked component (Lewis) at Kinkaid.

John Bennett

Recent Archeological Field Work in Kentucky

In the past two years the Archeological Survey sponsored by the University of Kentucky, with a force averaging over 200 persons, has excavated 35 prehistoric sites in Kentucky. Attention, at first, was centered chiefly on shell mounds, significant because of their relatively great age. With the publication of the first reports on this type of site attention is being shifted for the present primarily to Adena and Ft. Ancient sites, several of which have been examined. A considerable quantity of Tennessee-Cumberland and rock shelter materials has also been excavated. Work on all types of

sites named is going on at the present time. Materials recovered receive laboratory processing as rapidly as facilities permit.

(A series of slides was used to illustrate typical sites with associated artifacts and features, with the exception of Ft. Ancient sites and their materials.)

Ralph D. Brown

Preliminary Remarks on the Types of Deformation of Guntersville Crania

The research on cranial and post-cranial skeletal remains from the Guntersville Basin is still in progress so that no compilation of measurements and observations is as yet available. However, various types of cranial deformation, which may possibly be of great importance from a cultural point of view, occur in the upper levels, accompanied by shell tempered pottery. There are present; undeformed brachycranial types, those with occipital deformation, frontal deformation, combination of plane fronto-occipital deformation and a fronto-occipital deformation which may be possibly allied to the Aymara deformation produced by binding. The crania coming from the lower pre-pottery and early pottery horizons seem to be undeformed dolichocephalic types comparable in every way with the Shell Mound types of the Pickwick Basin.

The presence of trophy skulls painted with graphite (six examples) and hematite (one example) have been found in at least two Guntersville sites. Taken as a whole the crania are painted by the aboriginal possessors with one-half inch wide stripes following

most of the cranial vault sutures, outlining the orbits and the nasal aperture and finishing up with complete painting of the angle of the mandible and the entire ascending rami, externally as well as internally.

Charles E. Snow

University of Tennessee Ethno-History Project

Although it is the intention of the University of Tennessee laboratory to eventually embrace the widest scope of ethno-historical research, our immediate problems are the determination of the relationships among archaeological culture complexes and their relationships to historic Indian tribes within the political area of Tennessee. The following methods and techniques are employed in our attempt to solve these problems.

The underlying principle is the comparison of trait lists. Such lists are prepared and filed, on 5" x 8" form cards, for two sections; namely: (1)Ethnology, and (2)Archaeology.

Ethnology File

Since archaeology deals principally with the material aspects of a culture, a reference system (or trait list outline) has been evolved in which the expressions of the material complex of a culture can be identified as easily by the archaeologist as the ethnologist. From 16th to 18th century accounts, in which references are made to the Indians of the Southeast, are abstracted and filed the description, functions, and social usage of the material aspects of these cultures. References are copied verbatim from the source. Cultural concepts of a less tangible nature, but which can be inferred by (e.g.,community plan), or are an aid to (e.g.,intertribal

and Indian-white contact), the archaeologist are also included. Cards are made out in duplicate and filed (1) by culture trait, and (2) by tribe.

CULTURE TRAIT FILE: Cards within each trait group are segregated by tribe, and subdivided into chronological periods significant to the Indian cultural development in the Southeast. This file facilitates the determination of the temporal and spatial (or tribal) distribution of a culture trait.

TRIBAL CULTURE FILE: Within each tribe, cards are grouped by period and further subgrouped by trait. This file furnishes a convenient survey of the material culture complex of a tribe at a given date or period.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FILE

From published archaeological reports are prepared, condensed and systematized tabulations of the culture traits of excavated sites. Each trait is individually recorded, in duplicate, and the card filed: (1) by site, and (2) by trait.

SITE INVENTORY FILE: Sites are filed alphabetically by state and county. Gathered together under the head of each site is a complete inventory of the culture complex of that site.

CULTURE TRAIT FILE: Within each trait group subdivision is made on the basis of geographical areas. This file indicates the frequency of occurrence of a trait by area.

SITE SURVEY FILE: An auxiliary file makes conveniently available the following information on archaeological sites: name(s) of site, location, description, state, county, focus, name(s) of

investigator and date, amount of work done, publication organ, and repository for material. Cards are filed alphabetically by site.

Bibliography File

The Bibliography File consists only of ethnological and archaeological sources which have been scanned and the information in same filed.

J. Joe Finklestein