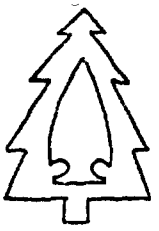
MacKay

MAINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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Vol. 12 *FALL BULLETIN - 1972* *No. 2*

PUBLISHED BY THE MAINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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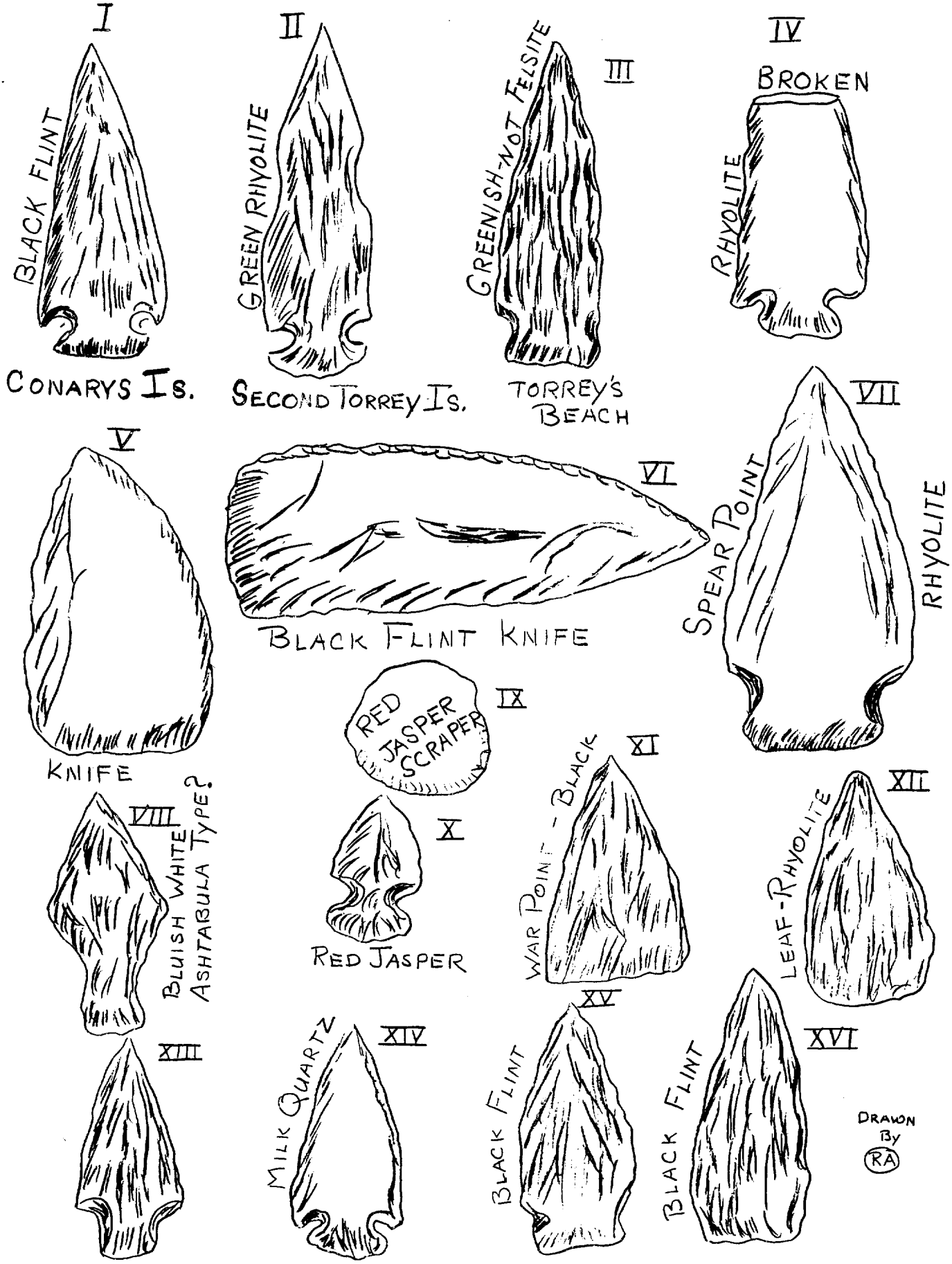
MORE ABOUT THE SHELLHEAPS

Roland Allison

It was in the early forties that I got interested in Indian artifacts; and as my memory goes back, I believe it was on Conary's (Black Island) that I made my start. I found a few bone points and a couple of flint axes, I won't go into more detail as I dug at this site dozens of times so will give only the highlights.

On my first dig I found two burials right on the edge of the shellheap. I may add that this shellheap is located on the south west side of the island. The first burial was an extended burial near the surface, not over a foot deep. The second was a bundle burial in a fire pit about four feet deep. In digging I found many bone points, flint axes, celts, thumb scrapers and bone awls. In addition I found a few flint points on the beach.

I found number I, an arrow point, on the beach in the fall of 1970, along with several broken ones. Any storm seems to wash out a point or two. Note point number 2; although some may not agree, I class this as a big game arrow. Note the side flaked notches where a rawhide thong was used to hold it straight. Any comments on that? I would like to hear from interested parties and will answer all letters. Number 3 is a beach find and shows polish, but is a fine point; what there is left of it. We all find them and would like to find the missing parts. Number 5 is a fine small knife; number 6 is a larger fine knife; or call it what you want, I don't care. I bet it was a mean weapon. Number 7 is a spear point, sure enough; very few have been found by me; maybe someone else has a lot, but not too many are found in our shellheaps. Number 8 is an unusual form which occurs out in New York state and is usually made of Onondaga flint. Some authorities call them Ashtaberla or Susquehanna. Am I right or wrong? It is of a dense bluish material possibly a form of quartz. Number 10 is a nice little red jasper point. We don't come by them every day but they are not considered rare. Number 11 is a so-called war point. Number 12 is a


I
BLACK FLINT
CONARYS Is.
II
GREEN RHYOLITE
SECOND TORREY Is.
III
GREENISH-NOT FELSITE
TORREY'S BEACH
IV
BROKEN
RHYOLITE
V
KNIFE
VI
BLACK FLINT KNIFE
VII
SPEAR POINT
RHYOLITE
VIII
BLUISH WHITE
ASHTABULA TYPE?
IX
RED JASPER SCRAPER
X
RED JASPER
XI
WAR POINT - BLACK
XII
LEAF-RHYOLITE
XIII
XIV
MILK QUARTZ
XV
BLACK FLINT
XVI
BLACK FLINT
DRAWN BY RA

leaf type. What do we call them, early woodland or what? Number 13 is a nice flint point, found on Campbell's Island. Number 14 is of beautiful milky white quartz found down in Oceanville. Number 15 and 16 are just the usual run of the mill flint pieces. In over twenty-five years of digging and searching I have found only about three grooved axes so would class them as hard to come by. I have found a few pestles, the largest and best is 14 inches long, polished all over, and weighs 3 pounds, quite an unusual find!

In my digging through the years I have found at least a dozen burials. No artifacts were associated with them, and there were no markers to indicate where the body was buried. I have not made one trip so far this easons due to cold and unsettled weather, but I hope to look over a few sites soon, weather permitting.

(This was received too late for inclusion in the Spring Bulletin)

AN IROQUOIS-MOHAWK TYPE POT FROM MAINE

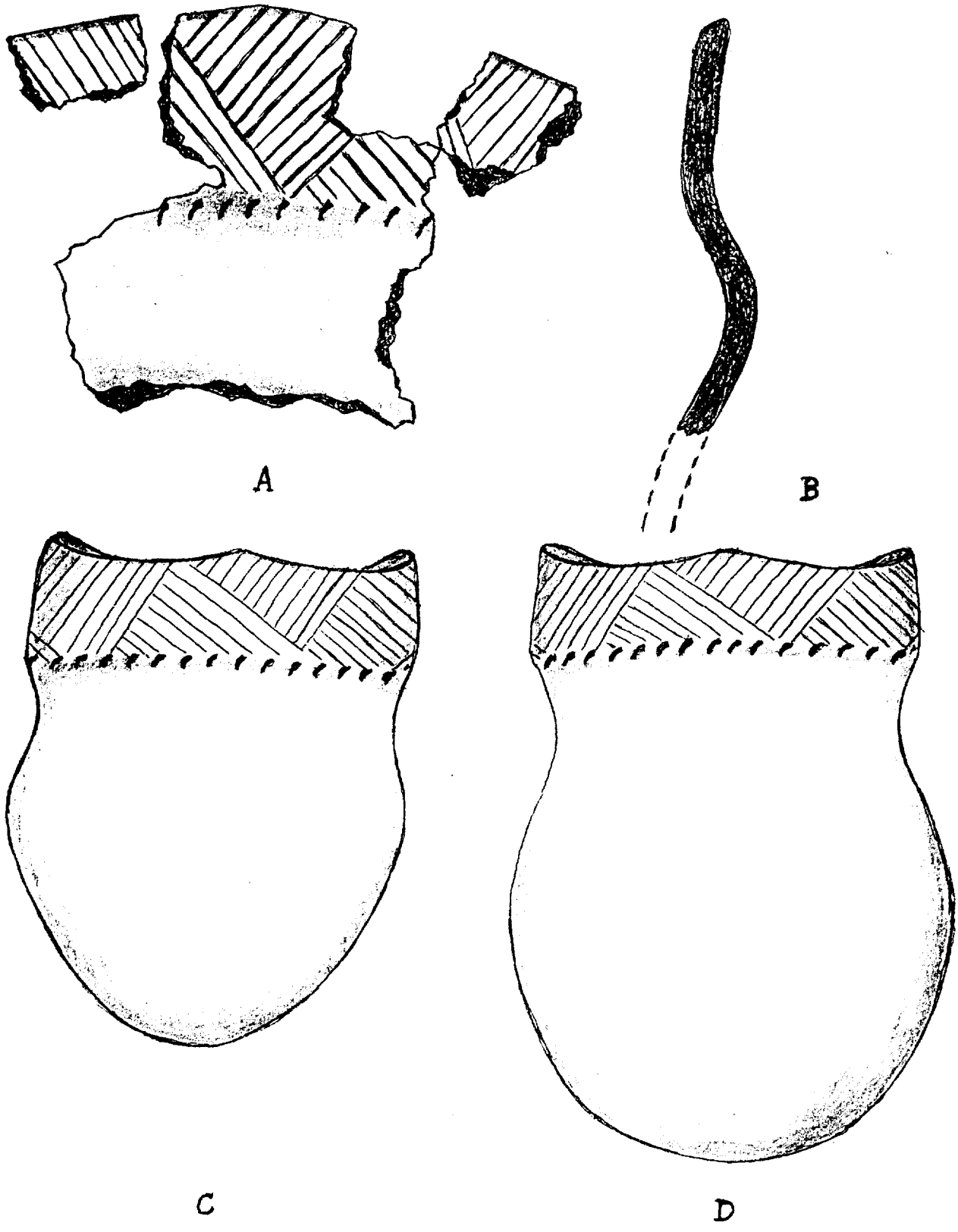
by Steve Feher

Among numberous potsherds found at a Big Lake site in Washington County the fragments of a vessel of apparent Iroquois-Mohawk design and possible manufacture are especially interesting.

Historically the Mohawks are known to have subjugated certain Connecticut Valley tribes and lived with and among them for some time. Hence the transference of some of their cultural traits to even coastal Maine was just a matter of time.

Sometime about 1600 A.D. local potters in the New England Coastal areas began adopting certain Iroquoian traits and designs. In time, these potters became so proficient with these new designs that it became difficult to differentiate between their ware and that of the Iroquois-Mohawk. However, the latter was usually made with more precision especially in the matter of designs. Also, the Iroquoian pots were most often of the fully-globular type while local potters clung to the semi-globular types. These local potters were still hindered by an inability or refusal to break completely away from their traditionally conoidal style of pot. This may have been because they were still using old firing methods wherein the pot was set in a bed of ashes with stones as props. For this, a more pointed base would have been useful as a support. The Iroquoian method is unknown; they may have used some sort of suspension method.

Unfortunately, the basal portions of this pot were not found and so this particular criterion cannot be used to determine whether the pot was of local manufacture or truly Iroquoian in origin. In the same manner, not enough of the rim was found to determine the number of castellations. New England pots usually had two or four castellations. One, or more than four castellations, are seldom found except among pots of the Iroquois.


A
B
C
D

In making these pots, first a castellated collar with a moderately undercut neck was formed. Then deep jabs or indentations were incised at the junction of the neck and shoulders. This characteristic became a hallmarb for ware of this type. An artistic effect of light and shadow was thus achieved either by chance or on purpose. It is a Mohawk design to have a series of incised parallel lines forming chevron-like panels with each panel having the lines running at opposite angles to those adjacent.

This pot seems to have been of uniform thickness throughout, approximately 1/4", although there is a slight increase in thickness where the constricted neck flares out into the shoulder. The paste is dark brown and the interior surface is rather heavily carbonized. The tempering agent is fine particles of crushed white quartz. Flecks of mica appear throughout the specimen. This characteristic was noted in nearly all the pottery found in this area. The interior is quite smooth with nothing to indicate how this was achieved. Similarly, there are no indications that the coiling technique was used. Iroquoian potters used the paddle and anvil method.

If we use the curve of the rim to estimate the diameter, this pot should have been about six inches wide at the mouth.

In the illustration, the recovered sherds are shown in actual size at A.

B is a profile of the same showing the rim and curve of the neck. Sketch C shows how a coastal New England pot decorated with this design might have looked. Finally, sketch D shows a late prehistoric Iroquois pot found near Windsor, N.Y. and bearing the same design. The difference in the overall configuration of the two pots is quite marked and obvious.

Whether this pot was an import or an article of local manufacture, its presence at a site some forty miles inland from the Maine Coast clearly indicates how far eastward the Iroquoian culture made itself felt and known.

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A WARNING IN TIME
or
THE GREAT INSURANCE RACKET

A recent event has created an extremely expensive learning experience for me. Please share my new knowledge.

I own some property in a rural Maine community, and have, over a serveral year period, constructed a small log cabin for hunting and general weekend use.

During the second week of October, the camp was entered forcibly, and around $400 worth of personal property taken.

The theft was reported to the local constable and investigated by the State Police, who offered little encouragement for return of any of the articles.

With a list of items stolen I approached my insurance company, expecting to have to take a considerable dollar loss, but totally unprepared for what I did get.

My insurance agent advised me that there is no coverage and reads me clauses about unattended buildings, too high a risk, etc. None of these replace my loss and causes me to wonder what protection I do have.

I had originally been advised when I purchased my home owners insurance that my personal property would be covered almost anywhere as long as it was provided reasonable protection. When I insured the camp, I asked about theft, only to learn that my good old homeowners would provide.

If I had been advised that the homeowner's policy would not extend coverage to property in the camp, I would certainly have purchased insurance which did - my intelligence and finances being such that I would want protection and could afford to pay.

"Any insurance is only as good as the insurance agent," is a snappy saying and holds a lot of truth. However, many agents are only after your premium dollar and either forget to tell you all or won't take the time. You, with no professional insurance knowledge, cannot be expected to know everything, and must therefore rely upon the advise and information of your agent.

If you've learned anything from my experience you're ahead of the game. Check your policy. Check your agent. Otherwise, it CAN happen to you, and now is the time to figure out how much of a loss you can afford. You may still have time.

Better to drop a poor insurance agent than several hundred dollars.

H. Lloyd Varney

FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGY LAB

During the summer of 1972 the University of Maine at Orono conducted research at the Hirundo site on Pushaw Stream and in the Passamaquoddy Bay region of Maine and New Brunswick. We are pleased to present a summary of this research for the information of society members.

Summer Field School in Archaeology Hirundo, Me 73-9

Work continued this year under the sponsorship of the University of Maine and the National Geographic Society. The School was directed by Robert G. MacKay, assisted by Clifford Watson and Jean T. MacKay.

Mr. Oliver Larouche, owner of the Hirundo Wildlife Refuge, enthusiastically gave us permission to clear the site as necessary. This enabled us to grid the site, which extends over 200 meters along the stream and up to 40 meters inward from the bank. The 1971 sampling squares had been put in somewhat at random to avoid disturbance of the forest cover (and large patches of poison ivy).

Excavating was done in 5 cm levels and recorded by 1 meter squares. The increased bookkepping was ably handled by Thelma McCarver, recorder. At the upstream end of the site we have twenty-one 2 meter squares of which three are still in process. About thirty meters down stream ten more squares have been put in with four completed. One square has been started eighty meters downstream from the second area.

Only one feature has been identified so far and that was a fire pit extending down to 65 cm. It was not distinguishable until the transition from darker upper level to the lighter clay-sand underlayer at about 25 cm. No artifacts were recovered from the pit but there were a dozen felsite flakes and two good carbon samples. These samples have gone to Dr. Stuckenrath at the Smithsonian for testing. In close proximity to but not in the pit were a felsite drill and a wide point with tapered stem.

Among the artifacts recovered this summer were sections of the cigar-shaped whetstones with one complete one. There were several fragments of ground slate points, one complete point appears to have been resharpened leaving a medial ridge on each side.

felsite and very few retouch flakes. It would appear that cobbles from the glacial till were reduced to useful sized blanks and final shaping was done elsewhere. This area was almost exclusively felsite while the next area downstream contained some cherts.

Pottery has occured in a few places, all in the first 10 cm. This is grit tempered and decoration is punctate and cordwrapped stick.

We are now preparing the artifacts and chips for computer analysis.

An important part of the Hirundo program is the analysis of the surrounding area. Prehistoric man cannot be understood without placing him accurately within his environmental setting. To this end we have enlisted the assistance of a number of specialists in ancillary disciplines whose techniques can afford particular insights. It is clear, for example, that the environment of Maine has changed significantly over the past 12,000 years since the Ice Age. Some of these changes have had profound affects on man in the past. Professors H. Borns and G. Denton are supervising geological mapping; R. Davis is conducting modern and paleo-floral studies both on the site and in nearby regions; and B. Hall is supervising studies of the rock types used by the Indians for the manufacture of stone implements. The Hirundo is most fortunate to have this kind of cooperation. Without the input of these specialists we cannot possibly get a clear picture of the relationship between man and his environment.

The Passamaquoddy Bay program, which was begun a number of years ago, continued with field work in 1972. Work this season was made possible by generous grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Museums of Canada. Mr. Stephen Davis, a graduate student at Memorial University in Newfoundland, directed a crew of four in the excavation of the Teacher's Cove site, first tested in 1970. The aim of this season's excavation was to learn more about the semi-subterranean houses described in an earlier article. In addition to recovering a lot of useful information on houses the crew established beyond doubt that these houses were used during the winter. The work also revealed a pre-ceramic compon-

ent, the first such compenent well-defined in the area. Mr. Davis will be with us until Christmas preparing a report on the summer's work.

David Sanger examined the nearby Cobscook Bay area for sites of the pre-ceramic period suitable for future excavation. Most sites are either badly eroded by rising sea levels or potted beyond scientific usefulness. Limited survey on offshore islands suggested more potential and survey will continue in this direction in 1973. The work was supported by a National Science Foundation grant to UMO. Sea level changes over time have had a profound affect on the coast and upon man's utilization of the coast. Valuable data on sea level rise through time is being provided by ongoing research by H. Borns and a graduate student at UMO, Mr. Stuart Thompson.

An often overlooked aspect of any archaeological program is the lengthy, and sometimes tedious, task of preparing reports. This year we are being assisted by several anthropology majors whose hard work will make much easier the job of assembling the kind of detailed reports required in modern archaeology. In addition to summary statements on the 1972 field season, the final report on the 1970 excavations at the Cow Point burial site in New Brunswick is nearing completion, and a synthesis of the archaeology of western New Brunswick begun.

In past issues we have raised the matter of a data bank for the storage of site and artifact information. Professor J. Farlow of the Math Department at UMO has commenced work on a data storage and retrieval system which allows for easy file maintainance and is, at the same time, compatible with data banks in use in other states. With this we will be able to recall data, both cultural and environmental, pertaining to sites in Maine. The same system will allow us to carry out sophisticated site and artifact analysis of a kind not previously possible.

Finally, we would like to call your attention to a fine new book "Public Archeology" written by Charles R. McGimsey III. "Public Archeology" explores the relationship between archaeologists, both professional and amateur, and the field of Archeology. McGimsey argues that all archeologists must cooperate to

establish effective State Surveys if future generations are to have any pre-history left to study. Dr. McGimsey had a leading role in the establishment of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, a well-planned and integrated program of archaeology successfully encompassing amateur and professional archaeologists. "Public Archeology" is a timely book; all archaeologists should read and give careful thought to its contents. It is available through the Seminar Press of New York and sells for $9.50 in hardcover.

David Sanger and
Robert G. MacKay

October 1972

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MORE READING FOR YOU

Scientific American:		
An Earlier Agricultural Revolution.	*W. G. Solheim.*	*April 72, V. 226, No. 4*
Planning of A Maya Cerimonial Center.	*N. Hammond*	*May 72 V. 226, No. 5*
Tree Rings and Climate.	*C. H. Fritts*	*May 72 V. 226, No. 5*
Life in Mycenaean Greece.	*J. Chadwick*	*Oct. 72 V. 227, No. 4*
Natural History		
The Fashionable Tooth.	*C. I. Stolof*	*Feb. 72*
Out of the Silence.	*W. Reed*	*Feb. 72*
Navy from Constantinople.	*F. H. van Doorninck, Jr.*	*June-July 72*
You Are What They Ate, the Human Stratagy		*Aug. - Sept. 72*
New Archaeology of China.	*J. M. Treistman*	*Aug. - Sept. 72*
X-Raying the Pharaohs.	*Harris & Weeks*	*Aug. - Sept. 72*
Scratched and Chiseled Marks of Man		*Aug. - Sept. 72*
Stone Age Revisited.	*V. Kozak*	*Oct. 72*
Ridge of the Pig.	*M. Harris*	*Oct. 72*
The Minoan Connection.	*C. H. Gordon*	*Oct. 72*

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MEMBERSHIP

The Maine Archaeological Society is a non-profit Educational organization, with a stated purpose of fostering amateur archaeological activity and knowledge in the State of Maine.

Anyone interested in membership should contact Mrs. Jean T. MacKay, P.O. Box 133, Stillwater, Maine, 04489. Checks should be made payable to The Maine Archaeological Society.

Classes of membership are:

Individual	*$2.00 per year*
Family	*$3.00 per year*
Institutional	*$3.00 per year*

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EDITORIAL POLICY

All manuscripts or articles should be submitted to the editor. Originals will be returned if requested.

Any article not in good taste or plainly written for sake of controversy may be withheld at the discretion of the editor and editorial staff.

The author of each article or paper that is printed will receive two copies of the bulletin in which his work appears.

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