

# MAINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SOCIETY INC.



BULLETIN



VOLUME 19

\$1.50

SPRING

1979

MAINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

Officers and Trustees for 1978-1979.

President Francis Soper, P.O. Box 435, Orland, 04472 469-2819  
1st V.P. David Cook, Memorial Drive, Winthrop, 04364 337-2186  
2nd. V.P. Judy Husson, R.R. #2, Box G14, East Holden, 04429 843-6516  
Secty Robert G. MacKay, P.O. Box 133, Stillwater, 04489 827-3431  
Treas Jean T. MacKay, P.O. Box 133, Stillwater, 04489 827-3431  
Editor Eric R. Lahti, R.R. #4, Box 99, Skowhegan, 04976 474-5961  
Ast-Ed Marshall L. Rice, Sr. Farm Pond Road, Deer Isle 04627 348-2506

Trustees

3 years David Sanger, 37 Forest Ave. Orono, 04473 866-3687  
Paul Husson, R.R. #2 Box G14, East Holden, 04429 843-6516  
2 years Jeffrey Smith, Jr. Seal Harbor, 04675 276-5583  
Kenneth Varney, Box 105, Hampden 04444 862-3825  
1 year William Tufts, Jr., P.O. Box 126, Madison 04950  
Duluth Wing, Maine Forest Service, Eustis 04936

COVER: By Penny Mauro

Artist's Representation of Petroglyph Figures  
from the Hodgkin site (69-4), Embden, Maine

## C O N T E N T S

Notice of Spring Meeting	1
Meeting Minutes	2
Wendell S. Hadlock (1911-1978)	3
Douglas Swain Byers (1903-1978)	4
The First Datable Norse Find from North America	6
White Island, Maine 30-46	10
A Rare Find	12
North Manchester Meeting House "Footprints"	13
Isle Au Haut Figured Rock	17
Notes from the UMO Archaeological Lab	22
Students in Big Dig at Maritime MicMac Campsite	25
Editorial Policy	26

## NOTICE OF SPRING MEETING

April 29th 1979

MTA Building  
35 Community Drive  
Augusta, Maine

11:00-12 noon	Set up displays and social hour.
12:00-1:00P.M.	Lunch-Coffee and snacks will be provided.
12:30-1:30P.M.	Trustees' Meeting
1:30P.M.	Business Meeting

### Program

Art Speiss, archaeologist with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, will discuss the role of the Commission in Maine Archaeology. A panel discussion will follow concerning standards and qualifications for persons doing archaeological work in Maine. Participation is encouraged.

### Hostesses

Sue Lahti, Meg Cook, Olive Rice

### Directions

Take Augusta-Belgrade exit from I-95. Turn toward Augusta, pass Howard Johnson's and turn right on Community Drive.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Many thanks to those who have helped to make this another successful year for M.A.S. The programs have been very informative and interesting. One of the highlights was the White Island Dig arranged by Marshall Rice. Those of us who attended enjoyed a beautiful day on the coast and learned much from our leader, Bob MacKay.

We continue to request that members display their artifacts as they add much to our meetings. Thanks to those who have shared their "finds" with us this year.

We look forward to greeting you at the Spring Meeting in Augusta. Come, bring your artifacts and share the fellowship.

Frances Soper

Minutes of Trustee's meeting, 22 Oct. 78 at Winthrop High School.

Present: Soper, Cook, Lahti, Sanger, Wing, MacKay & MacKay

Due to present rate of exchange it is suggested that membership fees be quoted "in U.S. funds" and that \$1.00 be added for postage for Canadian subscriptions.

Nominating committee said they would present the names of David Sanger and Paul Husson for Trustees for three years, and Eric Lahti as Editor.

Voted to establish the third Sunday in September for Fall Trustees meeting, and the fourth Sunday in October for the Annual business meeting. And that material for the fall Bulletin be in to the Editor by the 15th of September. Date for the Spring meeting to be set at the Fall meeting.

Discussed several problems with the printing of the fall Bulletin, Vol 18 No. 2. Printer did reduce his price a bit in view of these problems, some of which were heavy paper and printed one side only, (single copy postage-\$ .66) and very poor stapling.

Regular Meeting:

Reports of Secretary and Treasurer read and accepted. Sanger and Husson elected as Trustees for three years, and Lahti as Editor.

David Sanger then introduced Chris Borstal and Rick Will, graduate students in Quarternary Science at UMO. Chris Borstal spoke on and showed slides of Hirudo and Young sites on Pushaw stream and summarized the work of the past six years. Rick Will described their work in a survey of rock shelters in the Pryor Mts. of Montana.

Richard A. Doyle, Jr., of Yarmouth, has become our first paid-up Life Member.

28 Jan 79 Trustees' meeting at MacKays, Stillwater.

Present: Soper, Smith, Cook, J. Husson, Rice, Lahti, & MacKays (2).

Spring Meeting: Sunday, 29 April 79. 11 a.m., 12:30 Trustees, 2:00 pm.  
D. Cook to check on MTA bldg, Augusta, J. Husson to check on Husson College as back-up.

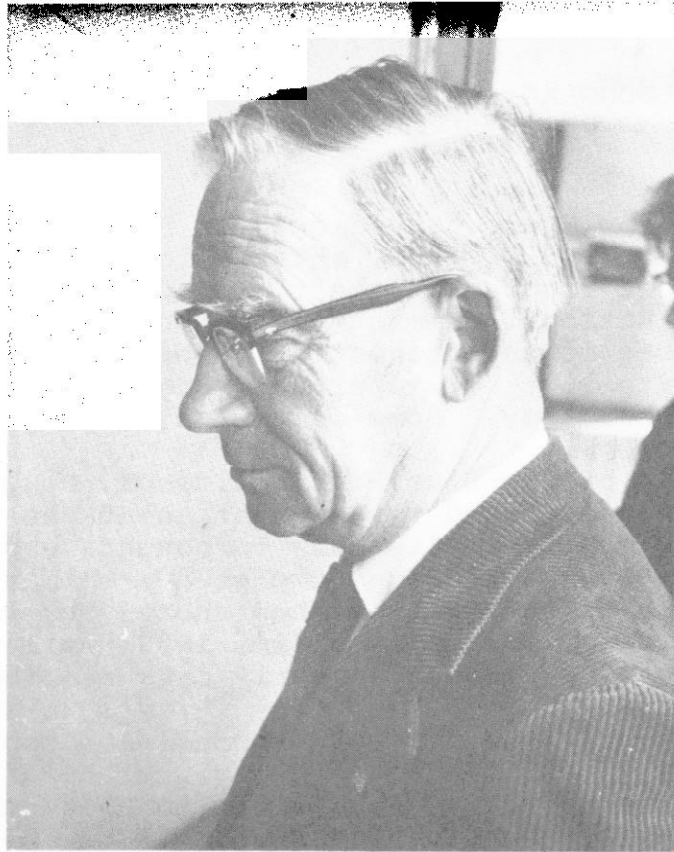
Guide Lines Committee, no report.

Material to Lahti for Bulletin by March 1.

Considerations for speakers: Borque, Park Service, Sanger or crew on coastal Survey. Treasurer reports \$581. on hand.

Nominating Committee: Sue Lahti, Jean T. MacKay, Jeffrey Smith.

R. G. MacKay, Secretary



Wendell S. Hadlock

Wendell S. Hadlock, 67, of Rockland, Maine died at his home on December 19, 1978. At the time of his retirement in 1976, Mr. Hadlock had been Director of the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland for twenty-five years. He had been instrumental in building that institution into one of the best small museums in the country. Among his accomplishments while there was the establishment of a loyal and supportive group of members, the building of an impressive collection of art, and the active involvement of the Museum in community affairs.

Hadlock, who was born on Ilesford, was a history major at the University of Maine, and received his Master's Degree in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. He became the Curator of the Robert Abbe Museum of Stone Age Antiquities in Bar Harbor in 1936. While associated with that museum he conducted important excavations at Tafts Point Shell Heap, at Ellsworth Falls with Douglas S. Byers, at Tranquillity Farm, and at many other sites. He developed a reputation as a very competent and thorough archaeologist. From 1948 to 1951 he was an Assistant at the Peabody Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, finally coming back to Maine for good in 1951 when he was appointed Director of the Farnsworth Museum.

G. Gordon Lane Jr.

## DOUGLAS SWAIN BYERS (1903-1978)

Douglas Swain Byers passed away at his summer home in Blue Hill, Maine, October 27, 1978, after a long illness. Doug was one of the best-known figures in the field of anthropology, having served on many national committees and published on a wide variety of topics. Those of us interested in the archaeology of the Northeast realize just how important Doug has been in the development of regional archaeology. Some of his major projects in the Northeast are discussed below.

Working out of his Blue Hill residence, Doug and his colleague Frederick Johnson directed the excavation at the Nevin site in 1937, an oft-quoted site due to its many components and its well-preserved burials. A few years ago Doug completed a summary report on the site and we hope to see it published shortly by the R.S. Peabody Foundation, for whom Doug worked from 1933 until recently. Another important excavation from those early days was the Richards site, also in Blue Hill.

From 1946 until the mid-1960's Doug was deeply involved in the archaeology of the Maine-Maritimes region. He directed a series of site surveys that added numerous sites to Moorehead's older records. Most of these surveys were concentrated in the coastal zone from the Penobscot River eastward.

In 1948 Doug joined with the late Wendell Hadlock in the excavation of the Wasp Island and Smith Farm sites at Ellsworth Falls. The summary report on the excavations, published in American Antiquity in 1959, has been quoted in all text books and summaries of North American archaeology ever since.

During the early 1960's Doug became the Principal Investigator of the Debert Archaeological Project in Nova Scotia. Doug realized the importance of incorporating geology, botany, and other supportive disciplines into the research design and consequently the Debert project has become a model for other interdisciplinary projects in the Northeast. The project involved such well-known scientists as Harold Borns, Jr., Robert Stuckenrath, Daniel Livingstone, and George MacDonald. I think it was one of his favorite projects, and Doug and his colleagues were in the Debert area in 1973 taking another core for pollen analysis as an aid to understanding the paleo-climates of the Debert region.

Doug was deeply disturbed by the mindless destruction of the Bull Brook site by artifact collectors and he devoted much energy to tracking down the dispersed collections. The data were recorded on edge punch cards in preparation for a definitive study and comparison between Bull Brook and the closely related Debert sites. Unfortunately, a tragic fire in his Andover home destroyed many of his notes. We hope, however, to see a summary statement appear shortly in print.

Doug's scholarship, so evident in his well-conceived projects, set the tone for future work in Maine and the Maritimes. The inclusion of archaeology in the Institute for Quaternary Studies at UMO is due in no small part to the concept of interdisciplinary

research fostered by Doug in the Northeast.

This statement has stressed Doug's northeastern contributions, but I could equally well list his activities in the Southwest and Middle America.

Throughout most of his career Doug was associated with the R.S. Peabody Foundation, in Andover, Massachusetts, taking on the Directorship of this prestigious institution in 1938, a position he held until his recent retirement from full-time involvement in 1968. He served on numerous committees and was the editor for American Antiquity during that journal's critical infant years. He taught at UMO in 1971, helping out after Dean Snow moved to SUNY.

Those of us who knew Doug admired him for his scholarship and his presence. A tall, dignified, and imposing gentleman, Doug commanded instant respect. Never one to press himself on people, Doug would, when asked, make available the wisdom and knowledge accumulated over many years in the field. He will be greatly missed by those who were fortunate enough to know him. His contribution to Northeast archaeology will continue; in the summer of 1978 Doug donated his research library to UMO, and the trustees of the Robert Abbe Museum at Bar Harbor have made available the Douglas S. Byers Memorial Award to be given to an outstanding student of Maine prehistory studying at UMO.

Douglas Byers is survived by his wife Dorothy, children Marjorie, Corine, and William, and by many grandchildren.

David Sanger  
University of Maine, Orono



## THE FIRST DATABLE NORSE FIND FROM NORTH AMERICA?

By Peter Seaby

Speculation and controversy regarding pre-Columban voyages from Europe to America will certainly continue for many years to come. That St. Brendan could have crossed the Atlantic in his leather boat has been shown to have been a possibility. That the Norse did visit North America from Greenland is well attested from the evidence of the sagas and confirmed by the excavations of the habitation site at L'Anse-aux-Meadows in the Sacred Bay area of northern Newfoundland. There has been less readiness to accept as proven the discoveries of engraved stones, 'runic' inscriptions and other finds in the United States, the dates of which are not so easily verifiable. What has not been firmly established is the location of the 'Vinland' of the Icelandic sagas--that pleasant land of frost-free winters, wild grape and self-sown wheat. Now, at last, a Norse artifact has been found below the 49th Parallel--a metal object that can be reasonably closely dated, even if the date of the deposit at the site must be somewhat less certain.

Early in April this year, on a visit to London, Mr. Riley Sutherland, of Bar Harbour, Maine (who had recorded the discovery of a Henry VIII groat at Northeast Harbour, Maine, in the Bulletin of February 1978), had showed the writer of this note a short article published in a local antiquarian magazine. This gave an account of the excavation of a shell-midden site in the Penobscot Bay area of Hancock County, Maine, that had yielded a small metal object which, it was thought, might be a coin.

A numismatic opinion had been sought; the fact that it was a coin was confirmed, and it appears that it was identified as an English coin of the period '1134-1154'. Not unreasonably, in view of this attribution, the author of the article, Mr. Bert E. Farmer, had chosen as his title 'Were the English the first to discover America?' Rather less reasonably he went on to suggest that the coin was issued during the reign of Henry the Second, "infamous as the monarch feuding with Sir (sic) Thomas Becket". In view of the importance of this find it is a little surprising that the information was not passed on to the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London.

Being engaged in a study of coins of King Stephen at the time, and being reasonably familiar with the coins of his successor, the present writer was somewhat intrigued by the obverse of the coin that was illustrated in the article (the reverse was not illustrated). It certainly was not recognizable as an English coin; the head appeared to be animal rather than human, and it seemed to have certain characteristics not unlike some of the somewhat crude pennies struck in Norway during the latter half of the eleventh century. This was intriguing and further enquiries were obviously necessary. Other work precluded immediate action; however, a few days later the writer had an opportunity of discussing the coin with Professor Michael Dolley who agreed that the coin appeared to be Norse; but he stressed the necessity of checking statements and verifying, as far as was possible, the circumstances in which the coin was found in order to eliminate any possibility of a hoax. Letters were despatched across the Atlantic and, in some excitement and impatience, answers were awaited.

Continued----

Helpful replies were received in due course from Mr. J. D. Brady, associate curator of Medieval coins, American Numismatic Society; from Mr. Kenneth Hallinbeck, curator of the American Numismatic Association. More recently Professor T. V. Buttrey, of the University of Michigan, has indicated that, from his own enquiries, the account given of the circumstances of the find appears to be authentic. Further information has come from Dr. Bruce J. Bourque, of the Archaeology section of the Maine State Museum, Augusta, where the coin now resides; and it is through the courtesy of Dr. Bourque, who has provided photographs, that it is now possible to illustrate both sides of the coin.

It is now twenty-five years ago that two amateur archaeologists, Guy Mellgren and Edward Runge, began a series of exploratory excavations at a coastal site on Blue Hill Bay, near Brooklin on the northwest shore of Penobscot Bay. Three years later they commenced their main excavations and, until 1972, returned each summer to continue the work. The shell-middens of New England are refuse dumps of shells fish bones and animal bones, sometimes including pottery and implements, which can cover a period of several thousand years. The particular site on which Mellgren and Runge were working was unusual in that, though the site yielded remains of shellfish and other fish, birds, small mammals and occasional deer and whale, the bulk of the bones were from seal. So this was primarily a seal-hunters' occupation site and it was in use over a long period. The Maine State Museum has numerous artifacts from the site which Dr. Bourque suggests indicates human habitation by about every native culture in Northeastern America over the past six thousand years. The coin was discovered in 1961 but there has been no other find which can be classified as a medieval European cultural object.

The coin was found some twelve inches or so below the surface in bone and shell rubble. It is chipped at the lower right of the obverse and from the photograph it seems that the edge has crumbled badly in places. At one part of the broken portion there appears to be a smoothed, rounded indentation which seems to indicate that the coin was pierced, possibly for suspension on a necklace. So it may have been used as an ornament or talisman. If the coin had been pierced the area of the puncture would be a weak point, and an incipient fracture would crack further if the coin was subjected to any strain or a sudden blow.

That the coin is of Norse origin can be seen by comparing it with the five coins of Olaf Kyrre from the British Museum, all of which come from the Gresli hoard of 1878 found in the vicinity of Tydal, southeast of Trondheim.

The animal featured on the Blue Hill Bay coin has a certain cartoon quality. The crest of lines and pellets may represent the dorsal fin of a fish but fishes do not have protruding ears, so the crest may be purely a conventional recognition feature. If a wolf had been intended one would have expected to see prominent fangs. The long snout, rather visible in a photograph lit from the top at a low angle, and the open jaw almost give the impression of a yawning seal, if one ignores the ears and crest.

Perhaps it should just be regarded as an uncertain animal or monster of indeterminate age, sex and species. It should fall within Malmer's design classification 'Independent classes 1 or 2' which are dated to 1065-1080.

The coins of Olaf Kyrre occur in a number of hoards throughout the southern half of Norway, except for the area around the northern coast of the Vik which came within the sphere of the better quality Danish and German coinage standards. It is hardly surprising that Olaf's base pennies are absent from the contemporary hoards from Denmark, southern Sweden and Gotland. The only specimens from Sweden come from the north, notably from the three Lapp 'offering-find' hoards of Rautasjaure, Unna Saiva and Gratrask.

The Lapp 'offering-finds' are particularly interesting and may have a relevance to the American find. All the base Norse coins in the hoards were either pierced or had loops soldered on to them, some of the pierced coins still having woollen thread strung through the holes. The hoards were all deposited after ca. 1100, and it appears that they were imported into northern Scandinavia as trade ornaments at a period when further south the base pennies of Olaf Kyrre had been replaced by coins of better quality but substantially lower weight.

For the present it must remain a matter of conjecture as to whether Olaf Kyrre's base pennies can have reached as far as Greenland as trade ornaments to supplement cloth and other items that may have been traded with the Eskimos ('Skraelings') and even the continental Indians. If the Blue Hill Bay coin was pierced for use as an ornament it may have been worn last by a northeastern Amerindian who obtained it from Greenland ship's crew seeking to purchase pelts or conceivably it could have been lost by a Greenlander temporarily occupying the site as a base for a seal-hunting expedition.

As far as the date of deposit is concerned this again must be conjectural, but there is a firm terminus post quem of 1066. If the coin was used as an ornament this may well have been after the base coinage was discontinued in the last quarter of the century. The coin seems to have suffered more from chemical corrosion and breakage than from wear in circulation or as jewellery, so it may not have been used as an ornament for more than a decade or so and perhaps, very tentatively, a final terminal date of ca. 1100-1120 might be suggested.

Others will assess the significance of Olaf Kyrre's penny. By itself it may not provide the answer to the whereabouts of 'Vinland', but taken together with other evidence it may suggest that Penobscot Bay and its associated islands and inlets, such as Blue Hill Bay, could have been a port of call on the way to a destination which lay further South. The writer would wish to acknowledge again the co-operation of Dr. Bruce J. Bourque, who has kindly assented to the re-publication of the coin in the Bulletin; and to commend the excavators for their patient excavations over many years, in particular Guy Mellgren for his historic find, and the owner of the property for the public-spirited manner in which the finds have been placed in the collection of the Maine State Museum for research and for posterity.

One final note for the optimistic treasure seeker--the finding of one coin that may have been used as an ornament does not mean that numerous coin hoards are awaiting discovery in New England. Quite the reverse: time has shown that in areas where coins were not used for money coin hoards do not normally exist. If another Norse coin should turn up in the North American continent it is more than likely to be a 'jewellery' item and its stratification may well assist in dating previous undated material.

Editors Note:

Condensed from an article by Peter Seaby in Seaby Coin and Medal Bulletin, No. 724 published by B. A. Seaby Ltd., Audley House, 11 Margaret Street, London.



*Norse penny of Olaf Kyrre from Blue Hill Bay, Maine ((enlarged))*

White Island lies between Deer Isle and Brooklyn at the east end of Eggmoggin Reach. Most of the south side of the island was burned over some time ago and is now covered with grass, brush and brambles, scattered spruce trees and skeleton stumps. I have been told that it was burned to make sheep pasture.

For the second time Marshall Rice invited the members of the Society down for a dig. He supplied the transportation and the permission from the owner.

Sunday, 11 July 78, was sunny, cool and breezy. The following arrived bag and baggage; Mr & Mrs Jules Arel, Mr & Mrs Norman Elliott, Francis Soper, Dick Desjardins, Eric and Sue Lahti and daughter, the MacKays and Ken Varney.

This site must have been quite extensive at one time tho it is difficult to estimate how much may have been eroded from the front. It is presently about 50 meters east to west along the shore and extends back as much as 30 meters in places.

On the first trip out in 1976 we found miscellaneous fragments of bone of bird, fish, deer and bear. There was a beak from a sandpiper or something similar and the jaw of a small carnivore. Also there were a few fragments of the usual bone points and a few chips. Lloyd Varney found a few trade beads in a square where he had previously found several others.

This year, in addition to more-of-the-same bone fragments, there was the bit fragment of an axe, a core and a barbed bone point. Of course Marshall started things off by pulling a very nice point out of the bank as he was climbing up!

This site has been pretty well turned over and it is a bit difficult at times to know whether one is digging in backfill or not. The usual profile is 5-10 cm of black sod, 20-40 cm of dark sandy soil with shell and then sterile sand. The amount of shell varies and in some places it is broken up finely and other places there are large pieces and some whole shell. By shell we mean clam shell tho there were a few periwinkles and one Bay Scollop shell. The back of the site seems to have a greater thickness of shell layer and a few more artifact fragments.

In the short time available (we did stop to eat) we did not find anything that might be called a feature, tho that is not surprising as we put down only ten holes. These varied from one-half to one and one-half meters square and 30 to 50 cm deep. This is a small part of a site that may run between 1000 and 1500 meters.

In all we had a most pleasant day for which we all thank Marshall profusly.

Bob MacKay

## A RARE FIND

By Marshall Rice

Many strange things are found in the ocean and one of the strangest, from this area anyway, is the ground slate semi-lunar knife pictured here.

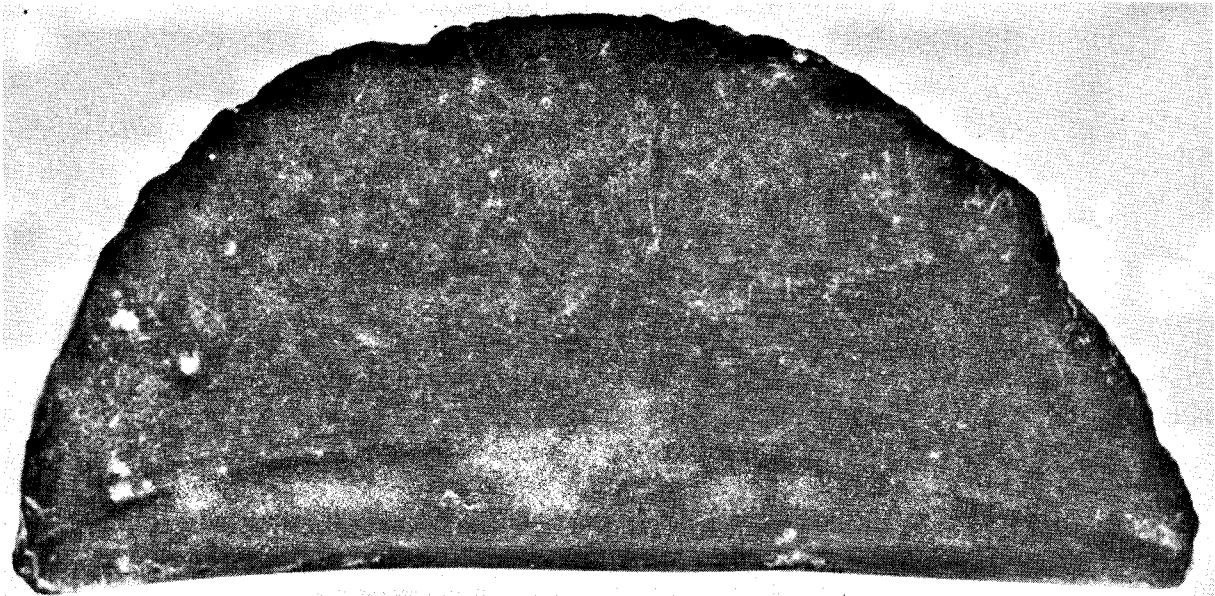
Scallop fishermen occasionally find interesting items in their drags; not uncommon are Indian artifacts. These artifacts are from varying depths and scattered areas. This knife came from a depth of about forty feet.

Just south, south-east of Black Point on Sunshine, Deer Isle lies an area quite rich with scallops. One of the local men, Mr. Richard Kent, who owns the knife, found it in his dump box and recognized it as valuable, he removed it prior to dumping the trash overboard.

Where did this particular piece originate? This is a good question as few knives such as this have been found in Maine. One reliable source suggests it may have come down from Laborador, or some other Canadian area either as a trade article or by coastal travelers. It is perhaps easy to think that Vikings, as well as Indians, could have traveled to this area since "the coin" was found no more than two miles away? At any rate the knife is a prize.

Another suggestion perhaps worthy of consideration is that the area from which the knife was picked up by the drag is a drowned site. This theory although possible is, I think, highly improbable. However, your guess is as good as mine. Regardless of the origin we have the knife for all to admire and speculate about.

Also, from this same area I have two other tools: one, a large chipped rhyolite hand pounding tool and the other a rather large broken celt, however, the knife is the beauty. The blade is slightly knicked, but there is no erosion wear. Where the blade was fashioned there are scratch marks left which still is evidence. It measures 20.2 cm x 9.4 cm x .9 cm.



Editor's note:

This past fall Dr. James Swauger of the Carnegie Institute of Natural History spent time in Maine viewing and recording petroglyph sites throughout the state. Dr. Swauger is a nationally recognized expert on aboriginal rock art. Following are two of his reports.

#### North Manchester Meeting House "Footprints"--

A Non-Petroglyph Site, Kennebec County, Maine.

#### Location

The phenomena that resemble human footprints at the North Manchester Meeting House, Kennebec County, Maine, are on a rounded granite boulder 4.9 ft. (1.5 m.) wide, 3.3 ft. (1.0 m.) high, that is the northwest corner of a fence of flattish stones surrounding a cemetery just south of the meeting house. The site is 2.3 mi. (3.7 km.) practically due north from Manchester, 2.95 mi. (4.7 km.) west-northwest from Stone School. (fig. 1). It is 5.6 in. (14.8 cm.) west of the 69° 45' eastern border of the Augusta Quadrangle 15' Topographic sheet, 7.5 in. (19.2 cm.) north of the 44° 15' southern border of the sheet.

#### People and Procedure

On 22 April 1961 Dr. Donald Baird, Geology Department, Princeton University, sent me a photograph of the North Manchester Meeting House boulder along with the following information:

Augusta, Me. Two 5-toed human footprints, the larger 10" long, on a stone which forms part of a churchyard wall in a small town 5 miles from Augusta. Lifelong resident attests she had "always" known of the foot-



prints. Informant: Raymond J. Siegler, City Editor, Kennebec Journal, Augusta, Maine: 1954-59. Ray and I agreed to call this the "Abominable Stoneman."

Having made arrangements with Siegler, who was still working at the Journal, to visit the site, my wife, Helen P. Swauger, and I went with him to view the boulder on 10 September 1978. We observed it, measured it, and photographed it.

#### General Description

The "footprints" exist. Their configuration and sizes are clear from Figs. 2.

#### Comment

My field notes for 10 September say: "I do not know whether the footprints here were made by man, were made by American Indians, were natural in origin, or were figures naturally occurring in the boulder that were 'improved' by humans."

Subsequent pondering of the matter leads me to the belief that the last possibility is probably the correct one. One can see on Fig . 2 several rounded, longish "blotches" that are, in fact, shallowly recessed, dished out, into the surface of the boulder. The same phenomena occur on the other side of the boulder.

On the telephone when first I called him, Sieger spoke of "vandalization" at the site. I suggest that the "footprints" are the result of purposeful "vandalization," that in the past someone noted the general foot-shaped appearance of the blotches and "improved" upon them so that they assumed the form they now

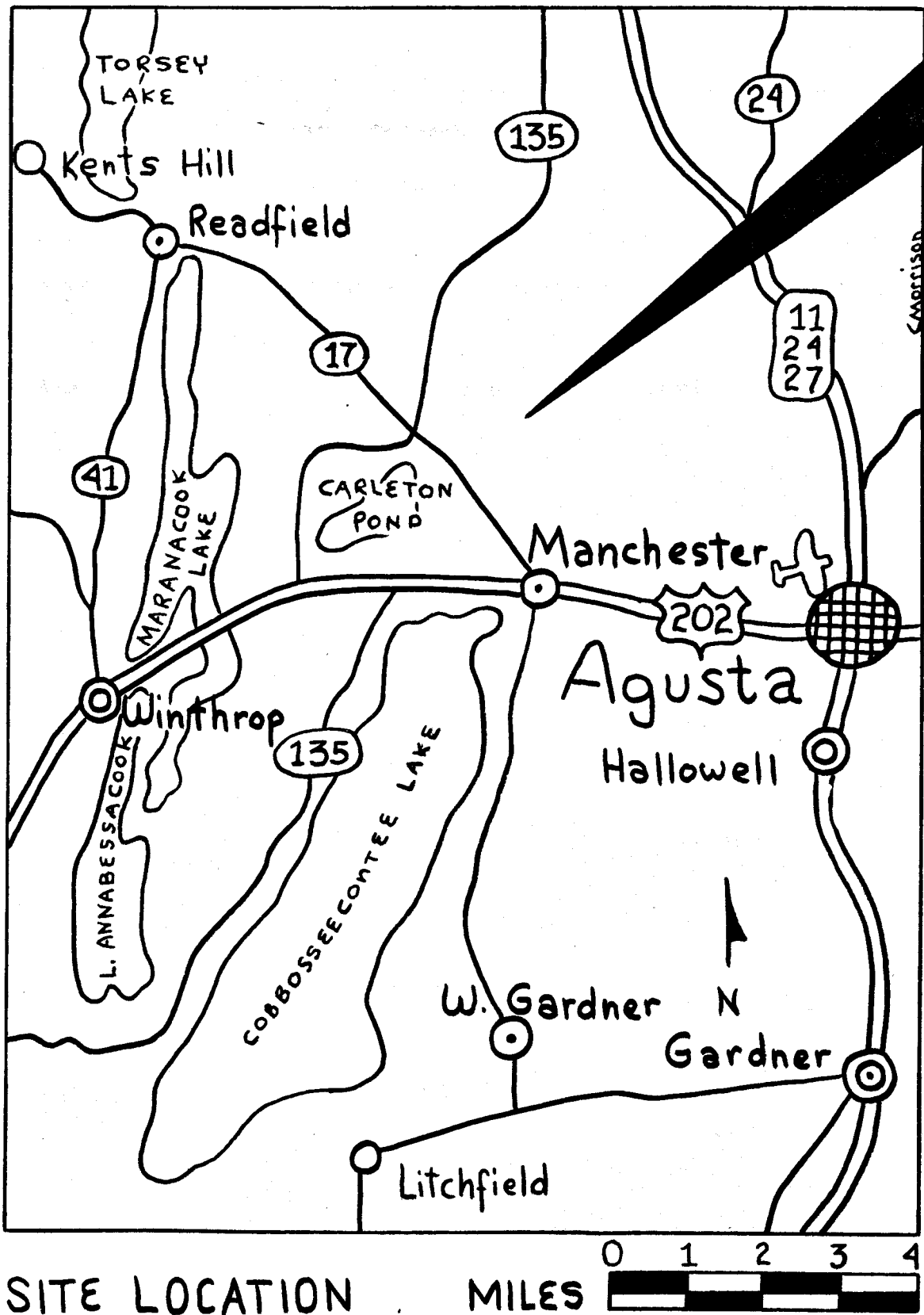


fig. 1

have. Such an action would account for the anomaly of "toes" in the heel of the "footprints" on the left as one looks at the Figs.

Because I was not there when the "footprints" assumed their present appearance, I am not positive that they were not carved by man, Native American or newcomer, but my judgment at the moment is that these "footprints" are natural features somewhat altered to their present form by someone, and that the alteration was relatively recent and not the work of a Native American.

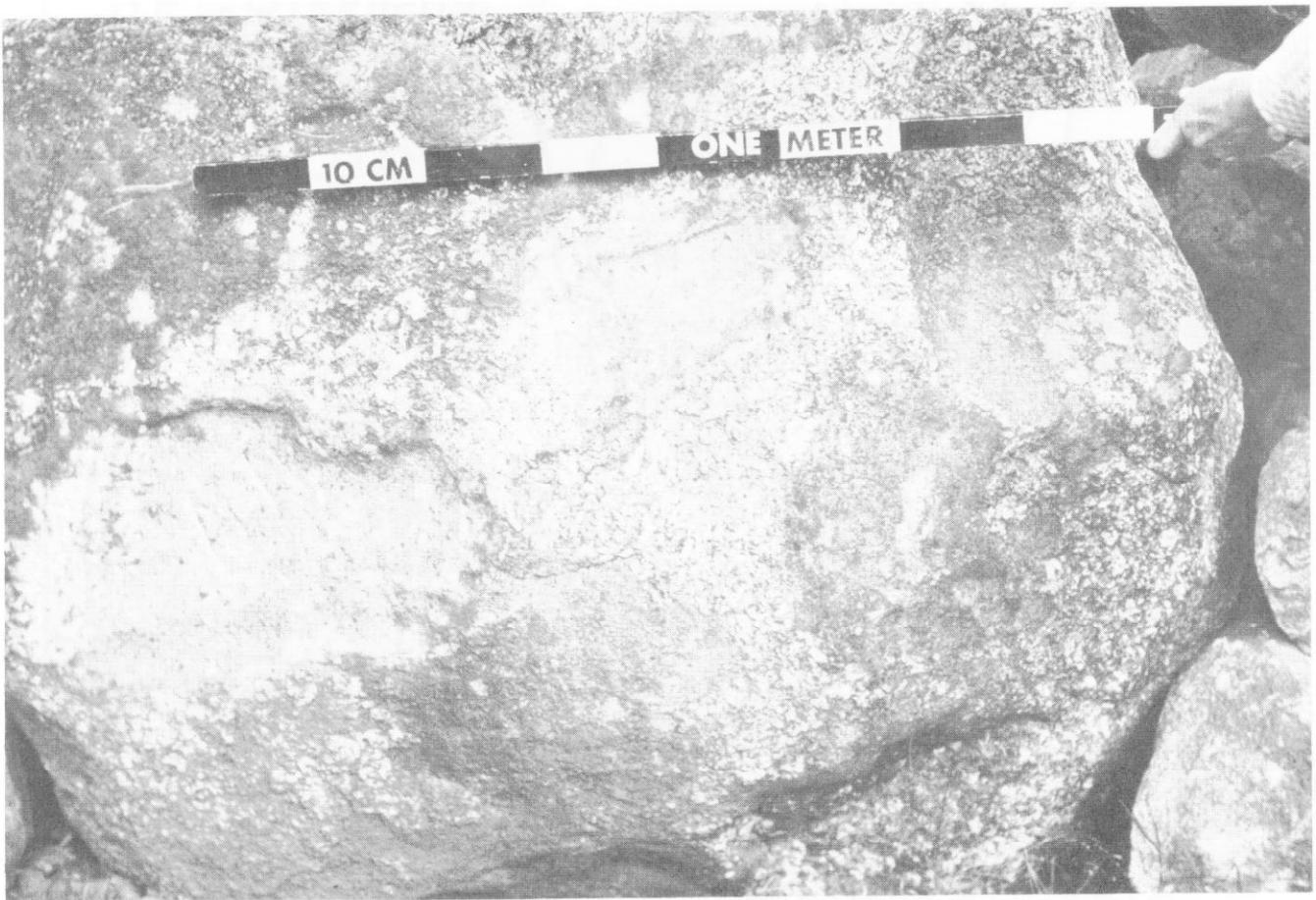


fig. 2

The Isle au Haut Figured Rock—  
A Non-Petroglyph Site, Hancock County, Maine

Location

The phenomenon that resembles a man-made carving is on a boulder lying on the shore at the center of the eastern arc of the Lookout Point bight, Isle au Haut Thorofare, about half way between two houses owned by Mr. and Mrs. G. Kinard Wakefield of Milton, Massachusetts. The boulder is almost due east from the most easterly point of Kimball Island. It is 6.5 in. (16.5 cm.) west of the 68° 30' eastern border of the Deer Isle Quadrangle 15' Topographic sheet, 5.6 in. (14.3 cm.) north of the 44° 00' southern border of the sheet. (Fig. 1)

People and Procedure

In July 1970, Alfred J. Fordham, then of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, now retired and living in Norwood, Maine, noticed what he believed to be a face, or something resembling a face, carved on a boulder lying between the Sea Breeze cottage owned by the Wakefields and their larger house at the southeasterly jutting of the Lookout Point projection, the house that can be seen in Fig. 2.

Fordham took photographs of the boulder and sent them to Dr. Dena Dincauze, then of the Peabody Museum at Harvard, now of the University of Massachusetts. From the photographs, Dincauze could make no judgment as to the likelihood of the configuration on the boulder being an artifact. She advised

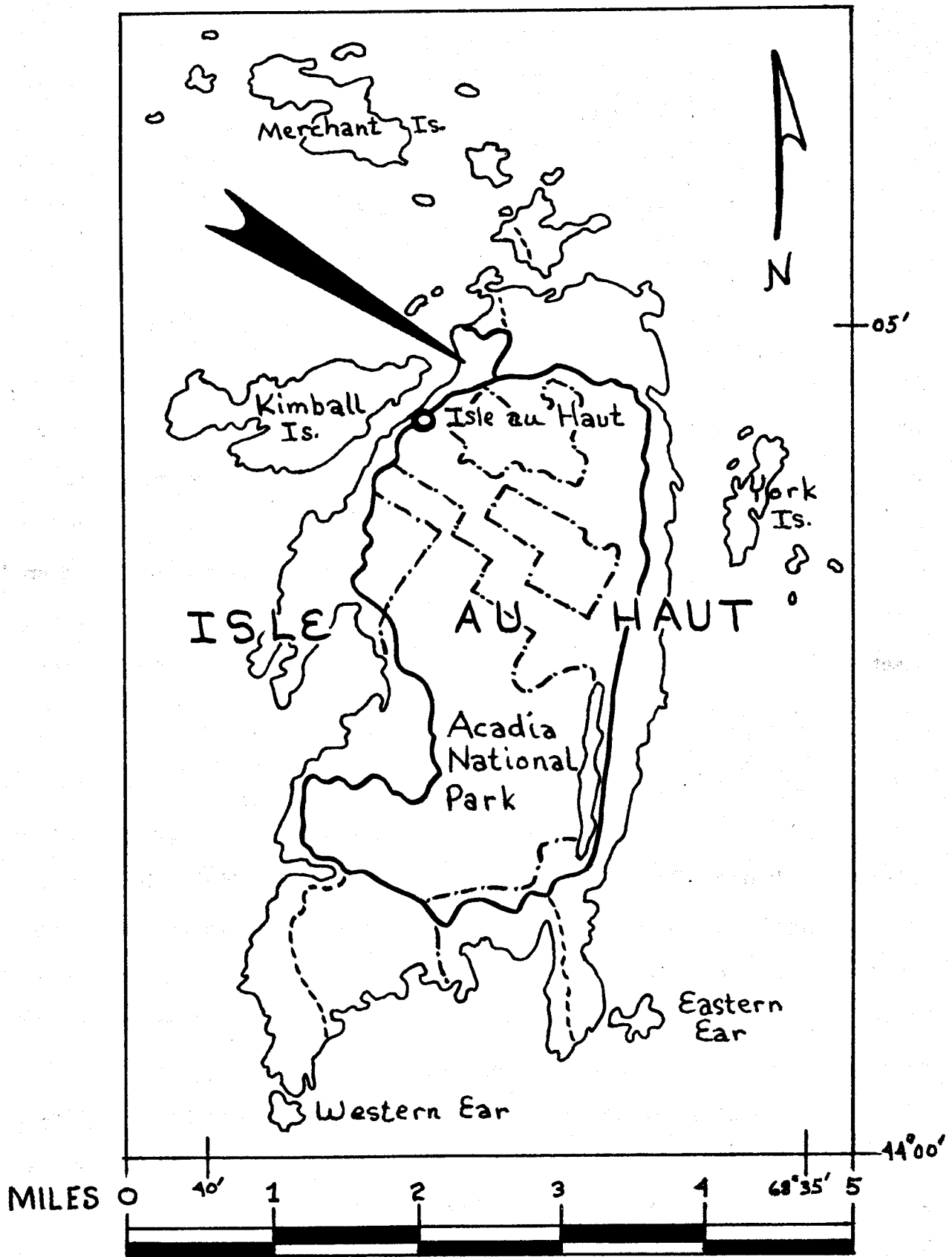


fig. 1

Fordham to send a photograph to me and ask my opinion. In September 1970, he sent two that I have used here as Figs. 2 and 3. I had to write him that I was no better able to make a judgment in the matter by means of the photographs than was Dincauze.

In 1978, opportunity arose to visit the site as part of an observational visit to all native American petroglyph sites in my records that occur in the New England states. Through Fordham, I received permission from the Wakefields to visit their property and observe the phenomenon, and this I did with my wife, Helen P. Swauger, on 13 September 1978.

#### General Description

In his 18 September 1970 letter, Fordham wrote:

...a design inscribed on a boulder. Despite the fact that it seemed very obvious to me it had not been seen by others. At least I could not find anyone in the area who knew of its presence.

I share Fordham's astonishment that the design had not been noticed by others for, as can be seen in Fig. 2, it is very clear to anyone approaching it as we did walking north along the shore from the Sea Breeze cottage.

The boulder is about 3 ft. 4 in. high (say 1 m.), twice that long, and about the same in thickness, measurements on such ungainly objects being hardly exact. The design is 23.6 in. (60 cm.) across at the widest point of its body, 35.4 in. (90 cm.) along its greatest length.

#### Comment

My judgment at this time is that the design was not made by a Native American, nor, for that matter, by a man, but by the action of the sea and the weather on the body of the boulder.

Fordham noted in his 18 September 1970 letter that the texture of the boulder appeared uniform and that it seemed unlikely that the design could

have come about through erosion. I agree with him as to the texture. I think it curious that the design should have been shaped by erosion, but I must come to that conclusion.

I found no evidence of chipping, rubbing, or pecking. The channels around the body of the design are much sharper than I expect to see in a product of erosion, but other boulders along the beach show developing isolated curvilinear forms of the kind found on this rock, for instance, the cruder but somewhat similar "design" in line with the foot of the "design" on the large boulder. (Fig. 2) Some of these are also bounded by sharp lines that in several instances are already undercutting the forms in what will be flat planes when the forms spall off.

It is possible, I suppose, that a budding sculptor began working out a full-face head form here, abandoned his project, and sea and weather erosion took over to blur chisel marks, or someone may have noticed the somewhat head-shape of the form and decided to edge it with a metal tool. That could account for the fact that no one had noticed it prior to Fordham's recognition in 1970

But until evidence pointing more conclusively toward a shaping by a person is found, I must consider this at least non-Native American.

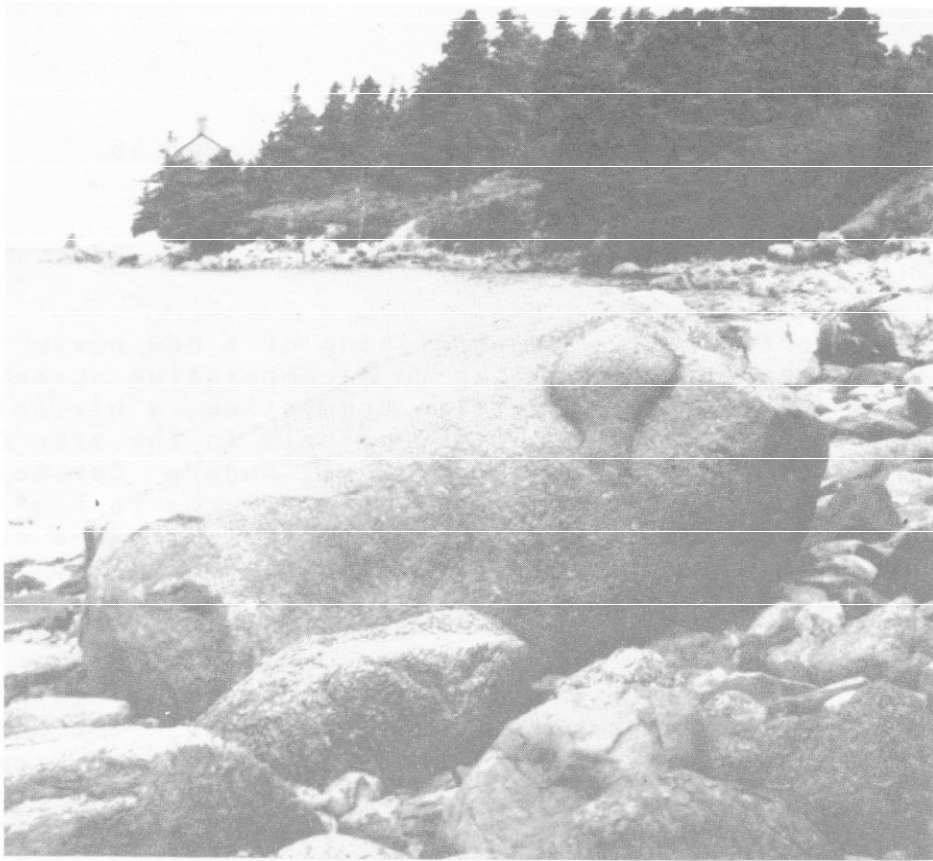


fig. 2

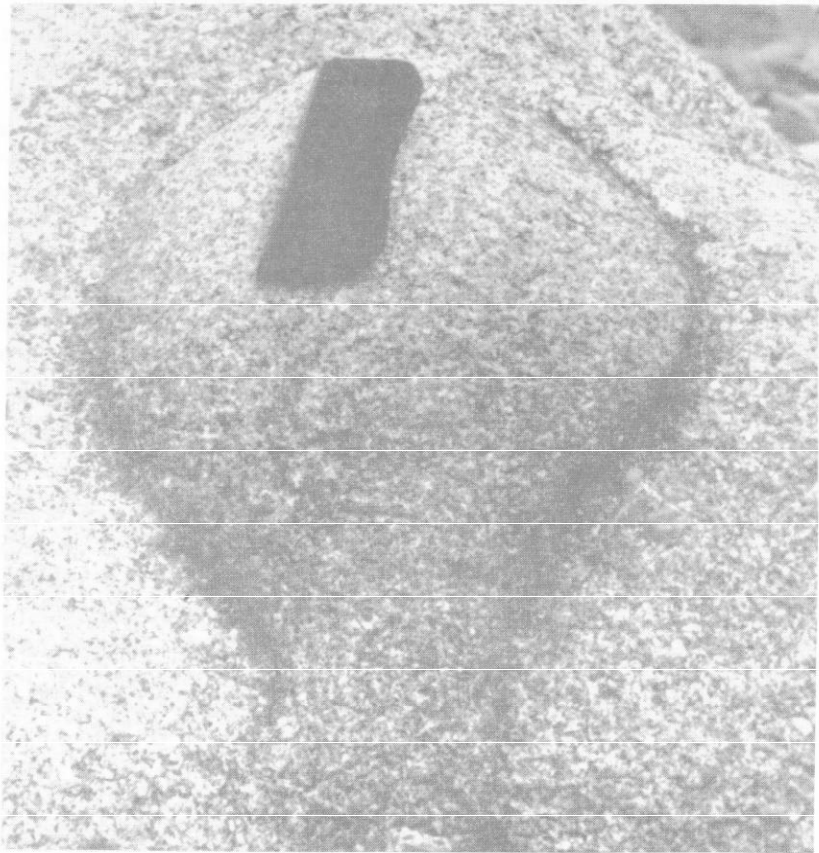


fig. 3



## Notes from the UMO Archaeology Lab.

Prepared by David Sanger

The year 1978 marks the beginning of a new phase in UMO archaeology operations. Thanks to a cooperative agreement between UMO and the Historic Preservation Commission, a historic archaeologist is now on staff complementing the efforts in the area of prehistoric archaeology by Rob Bonnicksen and Dave Sanger. Our new colleague is Alaric (Ric) Faulkner who joins us with the rank of Associate Professor. Ric spent a number of years teaching and conducting research at the University of Wisconsin (Oshkosh campus). He has recently published an impressive study of the waterfront at Newburyport, Mass.

Ric's time will be divided between teaching historic archaeology, developing a research program, and working with the Historic Preservation Commission. Historic archaeology is a fast growing aspect of archaeology in North America and the ability to offer courses in this area is an important adjunct to our archaeology curriculum. Maine's abundant historical archaeology resources have for too long lain undeveloped. The presence of a third instructor in archaeology will necessitate a change in our curriculum at UMO. (A piece on the archaeology teaching program at UMO and in the state as a whole is planned for a future issue).

Two other new faces joined the swelling ranks of archaeologists in the state. The University of Southern Maine (Portland-Gorham) added David Yesner (PhD Connecticut) to the Department of Geography and Anthropology this past academic year, and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission hired Arthur Speiss (PhD Harvard) as the prehistoric archaeologist on staff in the summer of 1978. Art and Bob MacKay have already spent a number of hours together this summer investigating various projects for possible impact on sites.

The 1978 field season at UMO was the usual hectic one involving several projects, mostly of the survey type.

With support provided by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Rob Bonnicksen continued to survey for archaeological sites in the Munsungun Lake Region in north central Maine. UMO students Richard Will, James McCormick and Andrew Bunker assisted in locating 25 new sites. Four sites may have National Register significance. The most important discoveries are two sites that probably date to the Paleo-Indian Period. One location yielded a new variety of lanceolate projectile points and the other site produced the base of a fluted point.

After leaving Munsungun Lake, Rob, his family, and Richard Will traveled to the Pryor Mountains in Montana where a joint UMO

and University of Alberta field school and research program was initiated. This pristine, isolated, mountain area in southern Montana contains a wealth of caves and rockshelters.

Two caves and a rockshelter were selected for test excavation in an attempt to determine whether or not man utilized the limestone habitation sites Mother Nature has so generously provided. Remains recovered suggest that sites in this area will yield a long record of deer, bison, and mountain sheep hunting patterns. During the last week of the testing program, camel, horse, and bison remains were found at a cave site 8,600 feet above sea level. Although human remains have yet to be found in association with the remains of these extinct mammals, research will be continued in this area during the summer of 1979.

David Sanger supervised two coastal operations this season. Since 1974 UMO has had a series of contracts with the National Park Service to investigate various sites in Acadia National Park. This summer attention was focussed on the Frazer Point site at Schoodic and the Duck Harbor cluster of sites on Isle au Haut. A four person crew headed by graduate student Jamie McCormick spent three weeks at Frazer and five weeks at Duck Harbor. The sites had been badly eroded by rising sea levels and the crew was involved with a "mop-up" operation for the most part. Nevertheless, a good deal of useful information was gained, and it will be added to previous summer's work at Fernald Point and other sites in Acadia.

The second project involved the continuation of coastal survey working out of the new research vessel KIASIS (Herring gull), a 24 ft. fibreglass boat equipped to carry a crew of four. The boat was made possible through a matching grant from the Historic Preservation Commission and UMO funds and a similar arrangement paid for the survey.

The object of the survey was to examine sites on islands that had not been previously evaluated. A total of seven weeks was spent on the survey with the time divided between the Jonesport area and Isle au Haut. A number of previously known but not examined sites were evaluated and out of the work should come a number of National Register nominations. The islands still have some large sites that are less eroded than many mainland shell middens but the degree of previous digging on many sites reduced their research potential.

In the summer of 1978 Ric Will (UMO graduate student) and Dave Sanger finished a report to the State Planning Office evaluating the known 700 plus shell middens. This report may be published as part of the Critical Areas Program series.

The Robert Abbe Museum celebrated its 50th anniversary with a ceremony at Acadia this August. As part of the celebration

Bulletin X|was released. In it are articles describing the founding and a history of activities since the museum's birth in 1928. Dave Sanger was asked to write an article assessing the future of Maine archaeology. His views of the possible roles of educational and governmental agencies as well as those of small museums and avocational archaeologists may be of some interest to Society members. By the time this note appears Dave Sanger's book on Maine archaeology with chapters by Bruce Bourque and Robert Bradley will be at the printers. Copies will be available at UMO and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. A notice of availability will be sent to Society members.

This fall may see a limited amount of field work but the main thrust is towards analysis and writing and the preparation of proposals for future research.

#### PRE-PUBLICATION

#### NOTICE

#### DISCOVERING MAINE'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

David Sanger, Editor

Available soon from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine, or from the Department of Anthropology, University of Maine, Orono, Maine. Please remit \$2.00 to cover postage and handling.

## Students in big dig at Maritime Mic Mac campsite

A Mic Mac campsite at least 2,000 years old has become the latest archaeological project of the University of New Brunswick.

Chris Turnbull, provincial archaeologist and a lecturer in anthropology at the university, describes the campsite, on which excavation was begun this summer, as possibly the biggest archaeological site in the Maritimes.

It has been estimated at about 300 metres long, 50 metres wide and two metres deep.

The campsite, called the Oxbow, is located on a flood plain near the estuary of the South West Miramichi River. Centuries of silt washing down the river have covered up and helped preserve layers of artifacts representing different periods of habitation.

Dr. Turnbull says the crew working on the site this summer uncovered relatively recent artifacts, from the 1700s, near the surface. As they dug deeper, they came across objects at least 2,000 years old.

The site contains fireplaces, tools, pottery and arrowheads. Dr. Turnbull hopes "to figure out the domestic side of life" of the people who lived there 2,000 years ago.

He says some of the cooking pots which were found have baked on carbonized food inside. Small blackened rocks were also found around the fireplaces. These, he says, were probably heated in the fire, then dropped into pots of water - a method of heating water similar to today's electric immersion heaters.

Dr. Turnbull hopes analysis of the Oxbow artifacts over the winter will help build up an archaeological picture of the region, which he says does not yet exist.

He also wants to be able to compare findings from the Oxbow site, a Mic Mac habitation, with findings from a similar site on Fulton Island in the St. John River, a Malecite settlement excavated in 1974. It was also two metres deep, and contained artifacts ranging from 300 to 2,500 or 3,000 years old.

Reprinted From Canada Weekly, Vol. 6 No. 47, November 22, 1978

EDITORIAL POLICY

All manuscripts and articles should be submitted to the Editor. Originals will be returned if requested.

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

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

Deadlines for submission of manuscripts:

February 1st, For Spring issue.

August 1st, for Fall issue.

Original manuscripts for review for publication should be typewritten and double spaced on one side of each page. Illustrations should be planned for half or full page reproduction; leave 3/4" margins all around. Line illustrations should be done on white paper with reproducible black ink.

Please send exchange bulletins to Editor:

\* \* \* \* \*

Checks payable to Maine Archaeological Society.  
Send remittance and application for dues to:

Mrs. Jean T. MacKay, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 133  
Stillwater, Me. 04489

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL .....	\$4.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY .....	\$5.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTIONAL .....	\$5.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE .....	\$100.00

Canadian subscribers please remit in U.S. Funds and add \$1.00 for postage and handling.