SCAA PLACES ITS S.C. CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY WITH THE SUFFOLK COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

In 1978 SCAA received a grant from the N.Y.S. Council on the Arts to collect all known archaeological reports to create a centralized record of these county cultural resources. This was developed to serve archaeologists, planners, and county agencies who need this information for Environmental Impact Statements.

The project was carried out by graduate students of the Anthropology Department and was housed there until a copy of it was moved to Southampton College Social Sciences Division while Dr. John Strong was president of SCAA. Over the years it has been consulted by almost every archaeologist who has carried out archaeological work in the area. In fact, any environmental report that does not use or list this resource in its References is suspect.

In order to have the database in a central location available to all archaeologists and planners and accessible during business hours, SCAA has placed the S.C. Cultural Resources Inventory in the S.C. Planning Department in Hauppauge. It is now part of the Arthur Kunz Memorial Library, which is a center for planning data, for the county’s Geographic Information Systems data, and shortly will be a repository for Federal aerial photographs -- programs initiated by Planning Director Steven Jones.

The Planning Department is now entering Historic Inventory materials into its database, preparatory to entry into the GIS system, which is a computerized mapping base. As soon as all county tax parcel numbers are available and digitized, all factors impacting the landscape--and thus planning--such as soil types, historic structures, sewers, cultural resources, etc. will be entered into the GIS format. It will be an extremely powerful tool for county planning; the information also can be shared with towns and other agencies with such decision-making responsibilities.

One problem facing this systematization of the county’s environmental and cultural record is filling the gap in the cultural resources record from 1978 to 1996. Not all archaeological reports have been filed with either the towns or the state, much less the county. Since Planning Department personnel are not available to copy such records in the towns, SCAA has urged that a grant be sought for an intern to carry out this work. Hopefully, in a year or two there will be a complete County Cultural Resources Inventory as part of the county’s major library and repository in the Planning Department.

*ANNUAL MEETING -- THURSDAY, JUNE 27 -- BLYDENBURGH COUNTY PARK*
S.C.A.A. ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Thursday, June 27 at Blydenburgh County Park members and guests are invited to a Colonial Pot-luck Dinner; bring a dish and all else will be provided. Dinner starts at 6PM and at 8PM Dr. David Bernstein, director of the Long Island Archaeology Institute at SUNY-Stony Brook, will speak on “Recent Archaeological Research on Long Island.”

A brief business meeting to elect officers for the next two years will be held. The following have been nominated:

President - Douglas DeRenzo
Vice-president - Mark Milone
Recording secretary - Ed Mahoney
Corresponding secretary - Suzan Habib
Treasurer - Gaynell Stone, Ph.D.

Further nominations will be taken from the floor.
Thermoluminescence Dating Proves Early Peopling of Siberia. The Diring site in Siberia, where evidence of early tool-making, as well as new sites, have been found by Russian archaeologists from 1982 to the present, has had its early date of more than 250,000 years confirmed by geoarchaeologist Michael Waters of Texas A&M University. Human habitation was thought to have been about 30,000 years ago, so this is 10 times earlier than formerly believed. These were archaic Homo sapiens, on the threshold of modern humans, who had to have control of fire and a complex technology to survive in that rigorous climate. From Mammoth Trumpet.

Computerized Photo Database To Offer 86,000 Images at NMAI The visual wealth of the National Museum of the American Indian's Photo Archive--B&W, color, vintage, contemporary prints of the Americas--is now available on a computer screen with a few clicks. Informational text for each image will also be available. About 2,000 images have been scanned, as processing images for the computerized Photo Archive database is very complex, and the work continues. From Smithsonian Runner.


The History & Archaeology of the Montauk, Gaynell Stone, ed.

Assembled in this impressive volume are seventy-one papers on the Montauk Indians. Over the centuries the Montauks were systematically deprived of their land at the end of the South Fork of Long Island. Many of them moved to Oneida County, New York, after the American Revolution, and thence to Wisconsin. Some descendants are attempting to obtain Federal recognition as a tribe; this volume contains much useful information towards that end.

Two of the nine sections of this work show the Montauks' rich genealogical heritage, including census records, militia rolls, account books, court records, and other documents. The Fowlers, a leading Montauk family, are traced from the 1730s to the present by Rudi Ottery, C.A.I.L.S., and her husband, Will Ottery. Another paper is Field Horne's excellent account of the Van Tassel family's descent from Catoneras, a Long Island Indian woman who has been claimed as a Montauk.

Diaries of two ministers who worked among the Montauks are included in this volume. One is the previously-unpublished diary of the Rev. Samson Occom for the period 1743-1790, the other is the diary of the Rev. Azariah Horton for 1741-1744.

This is fascinating work--and a major contribution to the history of Long Island.
RESOURCES

Field School in Urban Archaeology, University of Maryland, June 3-July 12; also an Oral History Field School, same dates. Contact Laura Galke, 301-405-1423.


Archaeology Field School, Fort Edward, NY, July 29-August 23. may select 2 or 4 week sessions. Adirondack Community College, Dr. William Behring, 518-743-2236.

Historical Archaeology Field School, Historic St. Mary's City, MD runs June through August. For information call 301-862-0974.

Field School, Strawberry Banke Museum, last two weeks of July, volunteers welcome. Contact SB Museum, Archaeology Division, P.O. Box 300, Portsmouth, NH 03802.

Bibliography of Archaeological Sites in N.Y. City is being printed in each issue of the PANYC Newsletter- a most valuable resource. Contact Robert Fitts, ed., 212-432-2980.

The Society for Women Archaeologists has been formed. For information contact them at P.O. Box 4624, Rockville, MD 20849.

Consider the Source: Historical Records in the Classroom, a new publication from the State Archives & Records Administration in Albany.


Those wishing to keep abreast of archaeology in the state may become a Correspondent of the N.Y. Archaeological Council and thus receive its minutes. Fee is $15. to Elizabeth Chilton, 18 Cramer Woods Dr., Malta, NY 12020.

Introduction to Federal Projects and Historic Preservation Law are 3-day courses on how to work with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. For the 6 May through August courses, contact Registrar, Interagency Training Center, U.S. GSO, FAX 703-603-3239.

Friends of PIT (Passports in Time) is a grassroots organization that supports the USDA Forest Service's Heritage Program, which includes archaeology and other programs. Contact George & Cathy Poetschat, 13255 SW Glenhaven St., Beaverton, OR 97005-0959.

Mashantucket Pequot Nation Museum & Research Center now offers guided tours of the museum exhibits, in-service training for teachers, research assistance in the library, and special trips to some of the more than 200 archaeological sites on the Reservations. Contact Cultural Resources Dept., 203-536-2681.

Historic Terry/Ketcham Inn was awarded a N.Y.S. Environment Protection Fund grant. It is the site of the Historical Archaeology Field School directed by Drs. Linda Barber and Annette Silver for S.C. Community and Dowling Colleges, May-June.


A Survey of State Statutes Protecting Archaeological Resources is available from the National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC, 20013-7172.


The Sailing Circle: 19th Century Seafaring Women from New York is the exhibit catalog of the excellent exhibit by the same name, by Joan Druett, M.A. Wallace, L. Norling. Available from Three Village Historical Society; call 751-3730.


Geophysical Exploration for Archaeology, available free as a microfiche from Bruce Bevan, Geosight, P.O. Box 135, Pitman, NJ 08071.

Early Metal Mining and Production, Paul Craddock, 1995. Smithsonian Institution Press, P.O. Box 960, Herndon, VA 22070-0960. $59. cloth + $3.25 shipping.


MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in SCAA includes 3 newsletters per year and a 10% reduction in workshop and publication costs. All contributions are tax deductible.

Student (to age 18) $10 Individual $20
Family $30 Sustaining $30
Contributing $100 Patron $200
Life $400

Date: ______/_____/_______
Name: _______________________________
Address: _______________________________
City/State/Zip: _________________________
Phone No.: ( ) ______-_______
Willing to Volunteer? [ ] Yes [ ] No
Occupation: ____________________________

Send Check to:
Suffolk County Archaeological Association
P.O. Box 1542, Stony Brook, NY 11790