



# ANNUAL CELEBRATION

## LONG ISLAND FALL FESTIVAL

### BLYDENBURGH COUNTY PARK

Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
10 AM - 6 PM

MUSIC ART CRAFTS JEWELRY

**FREE Admission**

**Food Trucks & Drinks**

Live "Colonial Life" Demonstrations presented by:  
**Suffolk County Archaeological Association**  
(Blacksmithing & Carpentry)

*Rain Date - Sunday Oct. 10*

**BLYDENBURGH COUNTY PARK**  
New Mill Road, Smithtown, NY 11787  
**Vendor Info SCAA-NY.ORG**



**Rare Native American Ceramic Sherds found in Northport Bay, Long Island, New York**

Scott F. Kostiw

Sherds from a rare Native American ceramic vessel type, known as Shantok Cove Incised were found in Northport Bay, Long Island, New York. They were found on a slope of land near the waterline in 2012 after a hurricane washed away the leaf litter that was covering them. Other artifacts found were: oyster shells, sherds from other ceramic vessels, pieces from two different smoking pipes, stone flakes, and two whelk columella. The area in which the artifacts were found was named the Whelk Site due to the presence of the two whelk columella (Kostiw 2020). The ceramic type Shantok Cove Incised was first described by Salwen and Ottesen (1972) at the Shantok Cove site located in Montville, Connecticut. Sherds from two different Shantok Cove type vessels were found at that site. The overall exterior bodies of those vessels were covered with fabric marks. The upper areas of the vessels had incised lines. Between the incised lines were a series of small impressions or dots. Only one vessel is photographed in the Salwen and Ottesen site report (fig. 1). Figure 2 is a digital representation.



Figure 1. Shantok Cove vessel section from the Shantok Cove site, located in Montville, Connecticut. The outline of the vessel is my addition.

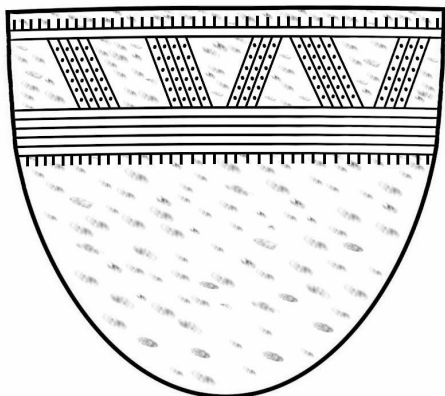


Figure 2. Digital representation of the vessel in figure 1.

The Shantok Cove Incised sherds found in Northport Bay (fig. 3, B-C) share many features with the two vessels found in Connecticut. Shared features are the overall fabric marking, the incised parallel lines on the upper body, and the small impressions or dots between the incised lines.

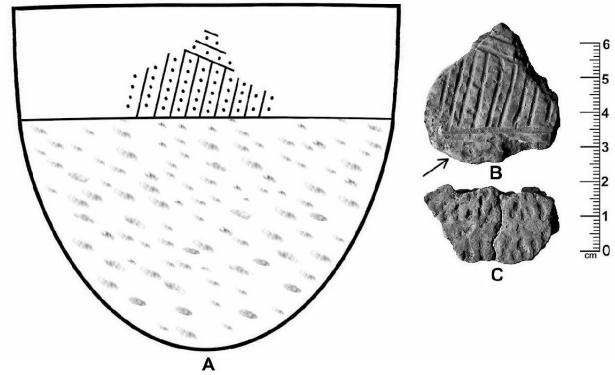


Figure 3. Digital representation and Shantok Cove Incised sherds found in Northport Bay, Long Island, New York.

A - Digital representation. B - Sherd from the upper portion of the Shantok Cove Incised vessel. The arrow points to the fabric marked area on this sherd. C - Two lower body sherds from the Shantok Cove Incised vessel.

The other sherds found on the Whelk site were mostly Windsor Brushed ceramics, which is a common type found on Long Island and Connecticut. Some of the additional sherds found on the Whelk site belong to the late Point Peninsula culture in upstate New York and date to the same age as the Windsor Brushed sherds (A.D. 900 – 1000). Four stone flakes on the site were made of eastern Pennsylvania jasper. Windsor people are known for using eastern Pennsylvania jasper for their arrowheads.

The main connection at the site is between the Native Americans that once resided in Northport and those in Connecticut. The Shantok Cove Incised vessels show there are obvious and strong connections between Native Americans in these two areas.

Note that the type Shantok Cove Incised differs from the ceramic type Shantok Incised. Shantok Cove Incised ceramics date to around A.D. 900-1000 and Shantok Incised is a historic period ceramic type. Shantok Cove Incised pottery is rare in Connecticut. I believe this is the first time this ceramic type has been found on Long Island. For further reading on the Whelk site see the article by Kostiw (2020).

**References**

Kostiw, Scott F. 2020

The Whelk Site: An Exposed Oyster Midden in Northport Bay, Long Island, New York *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut*, 82: 2-14.

Salwen, Bert and Ann Ottesen 1972

Radiocarbon Dates for a Windsor Occupation at the Shantok Cove Site, New London County, Connecticut. *Man in the Northeast*, 3:8-19

## Native American Semilunar Knife

Scott F. Kostiw

A rare Native American Semilunar knife is on display at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport, New York. Like all of the Long Island artifacts on display at the museum, it was found locally along the north shore of the Huntington or Oyster Bay areas.

Semilunar knives, as the name implies, are specialized cutting tools. They are generally made of slate, which is a fine-grained stone. They are made of a single piece of stone. The top part functions as the handle area, which is the thickest part of these tools. They have a wide blade area that is very thin. The bottom part is generally quite sharp. A whetstone was used to keep them honed to a fine edge. Scratches on the blades indicate that rubbing the blade with a whetstone, combined with sand and water was used to keep the edges sharp. They were resharpened regularly, which tends to reduce the size of the blade area.

This is the only known example I have seen from Long Island. I am confident there are others. A fragment of a semilunar knife made of dark gray slate was recovered in Maspeth, Queens (Smith 1950: 143). Many have been recovered in Connecticut. They are typically found in Northern New England as well.

Semilunar knives were likely specialized cutting tools, probably for removing hides from large animals such as deer and bears. At one time archaeologists believed they had some connection to Eskimo people, because of the similarity with the ulu. However, semilunar knives are about 4500 to 5000 years old and there is no connection with Arctic people.

knives from Connecticut. **C** is possibly an unfinished example. **D** is a typical example with a well pronounced handle. **A** is made of mottle brown slate. The others are made of gray or brown slates.

### References

Smith, Carlyle 1950 - The Archaeology of Coastal New York *Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History*, 43(2).

**Acknowledgments:** I would like to thank Killian Taylor Archives and Records Manager of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum & Planetarium for photographing the semilunar knife in the collection.

### The Importance of a Single Artifact

A 21 inch long thick wooden stick has been found in a lake in Finland. The wooden staff is thought to be a Shaman's stick, dating to roughly 4,400 years ago, the staff is carved in the shape of a snake. Tests are being done to determine the type of wood used.

The staff was found in a lake at Järvensuo, south western Finland, Some researchers theorize that the staff was an offering, though we cannot know what was in the minds of people from 6,400 years ago.

The artifact may be of Finno-Ugric or Sámi ancestor origin. In their cosmological views Shamons were believed to be able to turn into snakes. If the artifact can be proven to be of ancient Sámi origin, it would validate the claims of modern Sámi for their rights. *Art News*, Jesse Holth



Snake Staff, Finland

### Pilbara, Western Australia

Hundreds of cultural artifacts have been discarded and destroyed by the iron mining company Riotonto. Artifacts and structures dating back to the Ice Age 18,000 years ago.

The Eastern Guruma, the aboriginal group whose ancestors lived there discovered document that describe the "accidental", and the deliberate "discards and destruction" of artifacts and structures. The eastern Guruma claim that RioTonto salvaged, then destroyed, material from 20 sites, including an 18,000 year old Ice Age rock shelter. The site found at the Marandoo mine was destroyed in the mid 1990's. Artifacts were literally thrown in the garbage, without even alerting the Eastern Guruma people.

In 2020 Riotinto actually blew up a 46,000 year old sacred rock shelter as well. The company has since replaced executives and promise to do better. Unfortunately the damage is already done.



Figure 1 .

Figure 1 - Semilunar knives from Long island and Connecticut. **A** - Semilunar knife in the collection of the Suffolk county Vanderbilt Museum. Note the handle section in the upper area. **B-D** are semilunar

## Wine? Or Wine Not!!!

The Anstrotle University of Thessaloniki, Dept. Of Archaeology has been doing archaeobotanical research for 20 years. They have just announced that they have found the oldest evidence of wine in Greece.

A fire in an ancient Philipi house had preserved grape seeds and pomace. The fire dated to 4300 BC. The area, call Dikili Tash is about a mile from the Macedonian area of Greece called Phillipi. A tell (man-made mound or hill) at Dikili Tash dates back to at least 6500 BC. At the early/mid Neolithic level, the burned remains were found.

“According to the *Archaeology News Network*, ‘the new wine was being prepared in a large jar inside the house. While the juice together with the marc were being fermented.’ But then a fire broke out sometime around 4300 BC, destroying the house but preserving the archaeo-botanical remains for the than 6,000 years” says Joanna Gillian, writing in *Ancient Origins*.

The find is currently the oldest sign of vinification in Europe. The importance of this find can provide insight into daily life, social interaction, agricultural practices and development of culture for early civilizations.

Other examples of alcoholic beverages found are a 9,000 year old alcohol made from fruit , rice and honey - sample found n Sicily and a 6,100 year old winery in Armenia.

Research findings were made possible thanks to the Plant Cult program. Studying archaeo-botany across Europe. National Herald 07/15/2021.

## Amateurs at Work

A medieval silver seal was found in Norfolk, England. It was a bit of a mystery for scientists and scholars. The badly burned seal had an inscription but was too difficult to read. Posting the artifact on Twitter lead to its deciphering by Alex Cortez of California.

The seal dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries was found by a metal detector.

Alex Cortez, with an interest in Archaeology but no training figured out the inscription as Psalm 36:27. “Decline a Malo, a fad boum”. Decline from Evil and do good.



## Suffolk County Archaeological Association Publications

### Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory

All volumes are \$30. + \$5. Shipping, except Vol. III, 2d ed., which is \$50. + \$8. Shipping, both plus sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vol. I is out of print. Bulk pricing avail.

I *Early Paper in Long Island Archaeology*

II *The Coastal Archaeology Reader*

III *History & Archaeology of the Montauk, 2d ed.*

IV *Languages & Lore of the Long Island Indians, 2d ed.*

V *The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader*

VI *The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History*

VII *The Historical Archaeology of L.I.: Part 1 - The Sites*

VIII *The Native Forts of L.I. Sound*

DVDs - *The Sugar Connection (1) The Manors: Sylvester Manor, Gardiners Island Manor, Fishers Island Manor, Manor of St. George, Smithtown Manor, Lloyd Manor, Manors of Islip Town* - \$100. Per 6 DVD set, incl. tax and shipping; single DVD \$30 inc. tax & shipping.

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Wall Chart: *Native Technology (26x39"-3 colors)* \$14.

Map: *Native Long Island (11x17"-2 colors)* \$ 5.

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Student (to 18)	\$15.	Individual	\$25.
Family	35.	Sustaining	50.
Contributing	100.	Patron	100.
Life Member	400.		

Date:.....

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Address:.....

City/State/Zip:.....

Phone No. ....

Willing to volunteer? .....

Occupation: .....

Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association,  
P.O. Box 532, Wading River, NY 11792

Programs of the S.C. Archaeological Association have been funded in part by public monies from the New York State Council of the Arts - Decentralization, the Suffolk County Office of Cultural Affairs, The Phillips Foundation, The Gerry Charitable Trust, JP Morgan Chase, RDL Gardnier Foundation, Virginia Barath, Dr. Gaynell Stone, Harriet Gamper, Margaret and Stanley Wisniewski, and County and State Legislators, especially Steve Englebright, Douglas DeRenzo, President; Dave Thompson, Vice-President; Diane Fish, Corresponding Secretary, Deanna Nelson, Recording Sec., Laurie Billadello, Archaeology Consultant; Randi Vogt, Treasurer.

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