

Minnesota Archaeological Society

The Minnesota Archaeological Society has been a chronicler of archaeology in our state since 1935

The inscriptions below are from a 1,000 year old pot that was discovered in 1957 near Red Wing, Minnesota by an MAS member.

The thunderbird motif is representative of Middle Mississippian iconography.



Fall 2012



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Archaeology Of The Central Minneapolis Riverfront



Seth Eastman, The Falls of St. Anthony, 1848

By Scott F. Anfinson

Portions reprinted from a 2-part study written for The Minnesota Archaeologist

Human occupation of the St. Anthony Falls area began perhaps 12,000 years ago. Evidence for early human occupation in the region is scarce and largely limited to surface finds of fluted (Clovis, Folsom) and unfluted (Plano) lanceolate spear points. A Clovis point (ca. 9,500 - 8,500 B.C.) was reportedly found near the west side of the Washington Avenue bridge in 1941 (Steinbring 1974:64). Folsom points (ca. 9,000 - 8,000 B.C.) have been found to the north in Anoka County. A number of Plano points (ca. 8,000 - 6,000 B.C.) have been reported from the Twin Cities area with narrow leaf and broad concave base forms more common than stemmed varieties.

While no Early Prehistoric (Paleoindian, Early Archaic) sites have been excavated in east central Minnesota, excavations have been undertaken

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Letter From The President

The letter from the President is intended as a vehicle to inform the general membership of The Minnesota Archaeological Society of recently transpired activities of the Board of Directors. The following is a brief recap of the events, discussions, and decisions of the past quarter.

Resignation from the Board:

In June, Rhoda Gilman, longtime board member, announced her intentions to resign from the Minnesota Archaeological Society's, Board of Directors, effective in September. Rhoda has served for ten years as a distinguished member of our organization. Her presence will be missed at the meetings; however, we were able to retain her expertise as a Board Member Emeritus for purposes of advice, consultation, and representation to appropriate organizations.

A very sincere thank you, Rhoda, for your years of service and dedication to the Minnesota Archaeological Society.

Reminder of membership fee increase:

Minnesota Archaeological Society membership fees will be increasing effective as of January 1, 2013, in order to cover the rising cost associated with publication of the *Minnesota Archaeologist*. The MAS Board of Directors has approved the following increase in some membership fees.

- Student, Senior, Sustaining and Benefactor membership fees will remain unchanged.
- Standard membership fees will be increased by \$5 to \$30 in the United States, to \$40 in Canada.
- Household membership fees will be increased by \$10 to \$40 in the United States and to \$50 in Canada.
- Institutional Membership fees will be increased by \$20 to \$60 in the United States and \$70 in Canada.

Events:

In the month of September the Minnesota Archaeological Society co-sponsored and participated in two events: The Archaeological Fair at Ft. Snelling State Park and Archaeology Day at Kathio State Park. Both events were blessed with good weather, attendance was high, and a good time was had by all.

The Minnesota Archaeologist

The 2011 edition Volume 70 of the *Minnesota Archaeologist* has been mailed! The 2012 edition is scheduled for the end of the year, and we will be up to date.

Nifty Quotes:

“Success is believing in your self. Then convincing everyone else that you are right” (Kermit the Frog)

Rod Johnson

President Minnesota Archaeological Society President

For comments or suggestions, send a letter to President: Minnesota Archaeological Society, Ft. Snelling Center, St. Paul, Minnesota 55111 or email rodjohn33@msn.com

2012 Archaeology Fair

The 2012 Archaeology Fair, co-sponsored by MAS and the MHS Archaeology Department, enjoyed glorious weather the weekend of September 8-9 at Fort Snelling State Park.

In the event's third year at the Park, visitors were treated to artifact displays, hands-on demonstrations of flintknapping and pottery-making, information about current research in Minnesota underwater archaeology, and a host of publications to peruse. Due to unusually low water levels in the Minnesota River this fall, the traditional canoe tours had to stick to a shortened route. Approximately 400 visitors watched demonstrators, talked with archaeologists and enjoyed the hospitality of the Park's Interpretive Center.



Left: MAS President Rod Johnson regales a visitor with stories of flintknapping.

Below: Potter and birch bark canoe-builder Grant Goltz is filmed for a KSTP TV feature.



Dates To Remember

Minnesota Archaeological Society board meet the first Tuesday of each month.



The Maya Society, Hamline University, Saint Paul, welcomes everyone, whether you have family connections or have traveled in Mexico and Central America, whether you are a student or scholar of Maya studies, or whether you are just curious and want to learn new things.

Friday, December 7, 2012, 6:00-7:30 pm: Maya Society reception featuring stories and images from the 2012 Maya Society study/travel trip to the Yucatan peninsula, Art Gallery (mezzanine level), Giddens Learning Center. The National Geographic special *Quest for the Lost Maya* will be shown from 6:00-7:00 pm in classroom 141S. (next to the Gallery)

7:30 pm: *Ritual and Royalty Lecture: Figurines from a Classic Maya Tomb at El Perú-Waka'* by Dr. Michelle Rich, Research Associate, Southern Methodist University (Members and students free, visitors \$5.00).

Saturday, December 8, 2012, 9:00 am-12:00 pm: Exploring Mesoamerican Figurines by Dr. Michelle Rich Giddens Learning Center 1S. (Workshops \$10.00, students free)

Friday, January 25, 2013, 7:30 pm: *Maya Migration in Modern Mexico Lecture: The Case of the Yucatán Peninsula* by Dr. Bianet Castellanos, Associate Professor, American Studies, University of Minnesota Giddens Learning Center 100E. (Members and students free, visitors \$5.00).

2013 Council for Minnesota Archaeology Symposium

"Our Cultural Legacy: Current Research, Methods and Reports"



This biannual symposium will take place on Friday and Saturday, February 8 - 9, 2013, at Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. "Our Cultural Legacy" has been chosen for this year's theme to highlight both American Indian and EuroAmerican contexts that continue to drive inquiries into the archaeology of the Upper Midwest. Papers and poster/multimedia displays will be presented in half-day sessions. Other activities tentatively planned for the symposium include a job fair, a book sale, a lithic raw material exchange, and a reception for attendees on Friday afternoon.

The symposium will be free and open to the public. MAS members are encouraged to attend. Paper or poster submissions from members are also welcome. Please contact Pat Emerson (patricia.emerson@mnhs.org) or Jeremy Nienow (Jeremy.nienow@gmail.com) for more information.

Minnesota Archaeological Society Membership

Those who receive this newsletter by snail mail can check their label, which has their latest update.

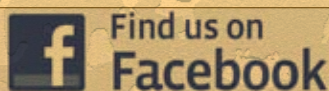
Everyone else can check with me if there are questions.

Debbie Schoenholz, at 612 374-5886, schoe030@umn.edu.

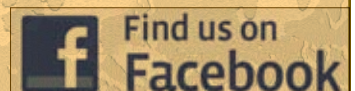
Membership Costs are Senior or Student: \$15 ■ Individual \$30 US, \$40 in Canada

■ Household: \$40 US, \$50 in Canada ■ All Institutions: \$60 US, \$70 in Canada

Newsletter: Send your MAS news & notices to the Editor: Michael Brey, mike_2@mkbrey.com



www.mnarchsociety.org



Letters To The Editor

MAS is always happy when we hear from our members. Since Rod Johnson's book review in the last newsletter elicited a response, we thought we would print it and ask see if it sparks other members to comment on this, or any other, issue related to archaeology or MAS undertakings.

Send letters to Minnesota Archaeological Society, Ft. Snelling Center, St. Paul, Minnesota 55111 or email rodjohn33@msn.com

Dear Rod,

6 August 2012

Thank you for your review of the Dennis Stanford book; this is a topic of much interest to me and many other people. I'd like to add a little to the discussion as follows:

The Anishinabeg oral history indicates that they originated on the Atlantic coast, and this is widely accepted to be true. They also carry a genetic marker called the "X Haplotype", which same is also found in a few isolated groups around Eurasia, including Italy, Finland, and the Druze sect in Lebanon, on the Eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. This last bunch were part of a major sea-faring and boat building culture, which makes it a pretty short stretch of the imagination to get them and their X haplotype genes over to the Western end of the Mediterranean and onto the Iberian Peninsula to found the Solutrean cultura I group. An interesting linguistic item is that the Anishinabeg Medicine Society is called the Midewiwin, and individuals within the group are referred to as "Mide." To this day, the Druze priests are referred to as the "Mede." So we have these tantalizing corresponding genetic and linguistic links in addition to whatever else Stanford and Bradley offer up. Could it be that the Ojibwe descended from the Solutreans and became the first Americans?

That's all I've got; just wanted to add my little bit to the stew.

Thanks Again,
Bob Peterson

Dear Mr. Johnson,

8 November 2012

I want to thank you for your financial support for the Closing Reception for the hugely successful "First Contacts: Native Americans and Champlain in New France" exhibit held in the T. R. Anderson Gallery this past Summer.

This exhibit was ground-breaking for the Libraries in many ways: The exhibit was initiated, conceived and executed with active participation from faculty representing four academic departments here on campus – American Indian Studies, American Studies, Anthropology and History. From the Libraries itself, the exhibit involved staff from the James Ford Bell Library, Archives & Special Collections, Social Sciences & Professional Programs, and Research & Learning. We had financial support, as well, from the University's Office for Equity and Diversity. The work of Kat Hayes, John Soderberg, and students Jennifer Stamp and Melissa Cerda was the core of the exhibit. They were all fabulous!

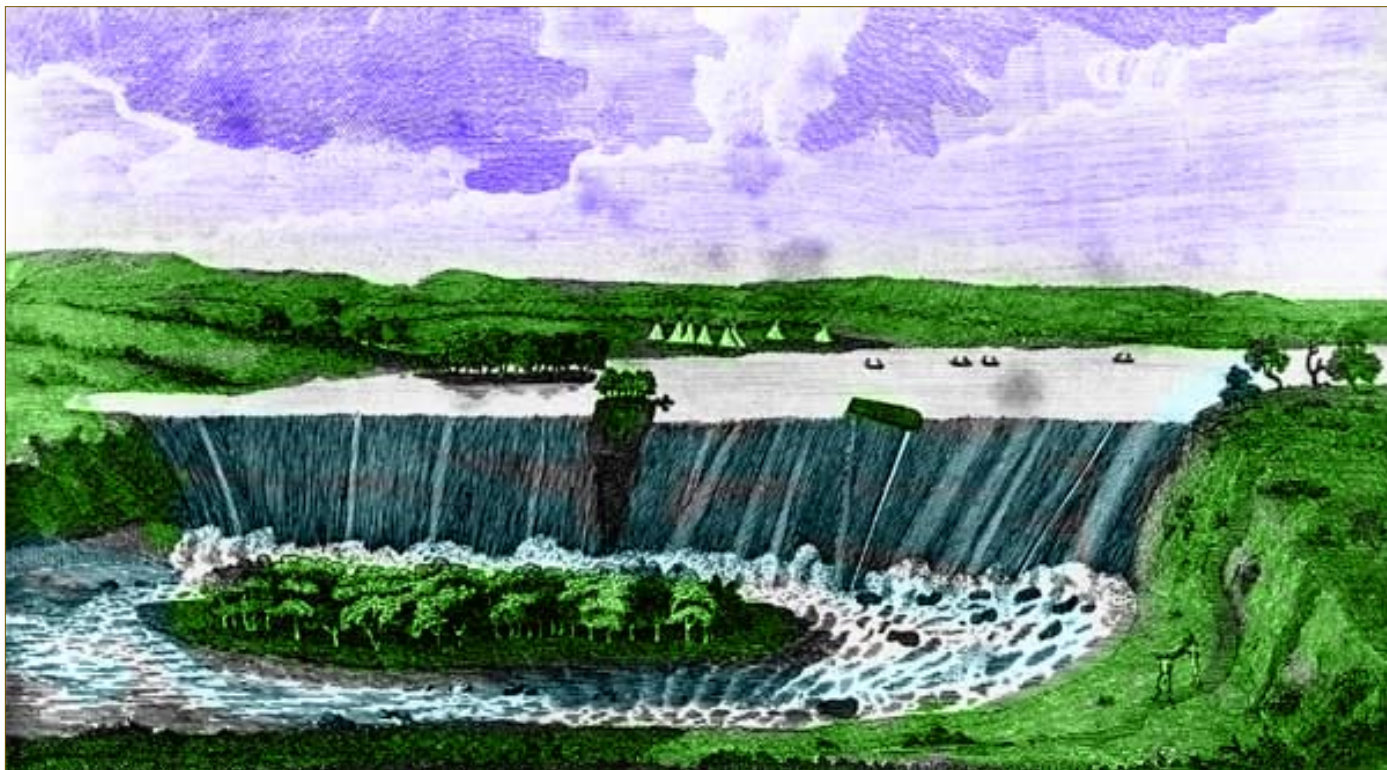
Beyond this we had the involvement – beyond MAS – of the Minnesota Historical Society. We also worked with both the Science Museum of Minnesota and the Bell Museum of Natural History to include some of their artifacts in the exhibit.

The exhibit was viewed by many through the ten weeks (July 9 – September 14, 2012) that it ran, including University classes, students, Bell Associates and members of the public. As our Closing Reception speakers – University of Michigan historian Michael Witgen and University faculty members Brenda Child and Jean O'Brien – all noted, we are seeing the emergence of a renaissance of research and re-evaluation of the history of these early contacts in North America. This exhibit provided an excellent overview of the issues and the multiple perspectives and contributions of all parties in this key time period.

Again, I want to offer you my personal thanks for your support. It was a team effort – and a rousing success!

Best wishes,
Nancy K. Herther

Librarian for American Studies, Anthropology, Asian American Studies & Sociology
170b Wilson Library, University of Minnesota



The Falls of St. Anthony, The Library of Congress

at a few early Middle Prehistoric (Late Archaic) sites. These sites have yielded Raddatz Side-Notched and Durst Stemmed points as well as copper artifacts.

The late Middle Prehistoric Period (Woodland) in east central Minnesota witnessed significant shifts in technology, subsistence settlement patterns, and even ideology. Technological innovations include the introduction of ceramics at about 200 B.C. and the bow and arrow at about A.D. 500. Subsistence gradually changed from the intensive single species hunting typical of the Early Prehistoric, to broad based hunting and gathering in the Middle Prehistoric. Some intensive wild rice gathering was also practiced in the area in late Middle Prehistoric times. Village sites became larger and more permanent as populations became less nomadic.

Mound burial was widely accepted by perhaps 300 B.C. East central Minnesota has more mounds than any other region of the state. Some of the mounds are very large and some are linear in shape. A few Effigy Mounds are present along the St. Croix River to the east, but most Effigy Mounds are restricted to southeastern Minnesota south of St. Anthony Falls.

Sites of Woodland affiliation are the most common prehistoric sites in the Minneapolis region. They are associated with Middle Woodland (Sorg, Howard Lake), Transitional Woodland (St. Croix Onamia), and Late Woodland (Kathio Clam River) ceramic complexes (cf. Anfinson 1978). By the beginning of the Late Prehistoric (ca. A.D. 900), subsistence practices to the north of St. Anthony Falls focused on wild rice gathering, while to the south corn horticulture was important. Deer hunting was important in the Late Prehistoric economy with intensive bison hunting practiced just to the west. Shell-tempered Oneota ceramics are perhaps the most common Late Prehistoric pottery types in the region.

In the Early Historic period, the Santee Dakota controlled east central Minnesota, while other Dakota groups such as the Yankton and the Yanktonai were present to the west. Ojibwe groups moved into the northern part of east central Minnesota in the late eighteenth century and by the early nineteenth century the Ojibwe completely controlled the northern half of the region. Much of the northern half of the Metro Area was not permanently occupied by Indians in the early nineteenth century due to intense Dakota-Ojibwe warfare.

Minneapolis Riverfront... continued on next page

The Dakota had a variety of names for St. Anthony Falls including “O-Wa-Mni” (whirlpool) or Ha-Ha (waterfall). The Ojibwe name for the Falls was “Kichi-Kakabika” (the great severed rock). A popular Dakota legend among early white settlers was the story of Clouded Day, a Dakota woman who went to her death over the Falls in a birch bark canoe with her infant son. Their spirits were said to occasionally be seen in the early morning mists below the Falls. Spirit Island, located just below the Falls, was named after this legend.

In Minneapolis, there were several small Dakota villages in the early nineteenth century. Cloud Man had a village at Lake Calhoun and occasionally camped above the Falls in midsummer. Good Road’s band periodically occupied a village of less than 10 tepees near downtown Minneapolis. This is probably the village that is often shown with a house in the background identified as the John Stevens house near the Hennepin Avenue Bridge. Stevens (1890:21) reports that Good Road’s village was “in the oak openings on the hill a little west of the landing of the old ferry.”

Dakota groups would occasionally camp on Nicollet Island (Wi-Ta Wa-Ste) to tap the maple trees for sugar (Holcome and Bingham 1914: 63). Dakota occupation of the area ended in 1851 with the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux.

Although the Falls of St. Anthony was considered to be Dakota Territory, groups of Winnebago and Ojibwe would occasionally pass through the area to trade in St. Anthony. Catlin (1965:139) shows an illustration of Ojibwe portaging around the east side of St. Anthony Falls in the 1830s.

Archaeological evidences for Indian sites along the central Minneapolis riverfront are relatively rare. Early settlers reported a lone burial found in 1870 on the east bank opposite Boom Island and a copper spear point found by Caleb Dorr somewhere in St. Anthony (Winchell 1911:259). W.R. Marshall reported two small mounds on his property east of the Grain Belt Brewery, one of which was partially disturbed for the excavation of a cellar; nothing “remarkable” was reported from the excavation (Holcome and Bingham 1914:2) .

On the west side, a dugout canoe was found during the foundation excavation for the Minneapolis Mill in 1890 (NW Miller 6/20/1890). As mentioned earlier, a Clovis point was supposedly found in 1941 below the west side of the Washington Avenue Bridge. Archaeological excavations along the West River Parkway encountered very limited prehistoric remains; a small prehistoric potsherd was recovered from a test unit south of the Hennepin Avenue Bridge (Tordoff and Clouse 1986:68).

Early Euro-American History

The first recorded visit to St. Anthony Falls by Europeans was in 1680 when Father Louis Hennepin and Antoine Auguelle canoed down the Mississippi after a brief captivity among the Mille Lac Dakota. It was Hennepin who named the Falls after his patron saint, St. Anthony of Padua. The next recorded European visit to the Falls was that of the LeSueur expedition of 1691. The first English-speaking explorer to view the Falls was Jonathan Carver in 1766 who later published a sketch of the Falls and a somewhat imaginative account of his exploits.

The Treaty of Paris in 1783 brought the east side of the Falls under American sovereignty and twenty years later the Louisiana Purchase did the same for the west side. White settlement was still a long way off, however, as there were thousands of square miles of land open to settlement between the Falls and the Appalachians and the powerful Dakota controlled most of Minnesota despite American sovereignty.

Zebulon Pike visited the Falls in 1805 and concluded a treaty with the Dakota who ceded a small parcel of land to the United States Government. The parcel extended nine miles up the Mississippi from its junction with the Minnesota River, in a narrow strip which included both sides of the river. Nothing was done with the land until Stephen Long re-examined it in 1817 and two years later the War Department sent Colonel Henry Leavenworth to build a fort near the junction of the two rivers. Leavenworth was soon replaced by Josiah Snelling who proceeded to build the fort that bears his name.



Minnesota Archaeological Society
Fort Snelling History Center
St. Paul MN 55111

- *MAS members who would like to put in some hands-on time have several opportunities.*
- *To get more information about these current projects, please contact the individuals listed.*

Become a fan of MAS by joining us on Facebook. You can submit photos of your collections, ask questions, or leave comments. This is a place to connect with others interested in Minnesota Archaeology. We hope to see you there! If you have questions please contact: Debbie Pommer at 651-430-0137 or pomme001@umn.edu

MAS Newsletter Editor: The Society is looking for someone who would enjoy putting together our quarterly newsletter and sending it to our membership, electronic and print. Costs are covered by the Society. The newsletter conveys important news and upcoming events to the archaeological community and maintains a prominent spot in the Upper Midwest as a venue for communication among interested persons and institutions. Please contact Debbie Schoenholz at schoe030@tc.umn.edu or 612-374-5886 if you are interested in this fun and rewarding position.

The Minnesota Archaeologist is available on CD. These include Volumes 1-48 (1935-1989) & Occasional Publications. You will want to add this to your library. The cost is \$100.00, which includes postage.

Check the label on the outer envelope of this mailing to find the year of your membership status. Please update your membership if it is not current. All the details can be found at www.mnarchsociety.org or contact Anna Morrow anmorrow@q.com 612-922 -7006.