

# Minnesota Archaeological Society

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.



## Winter 2012



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### A Look Back Into MAS History

Should women be allowed to join MAS?

We conclude our history article from our last issue.

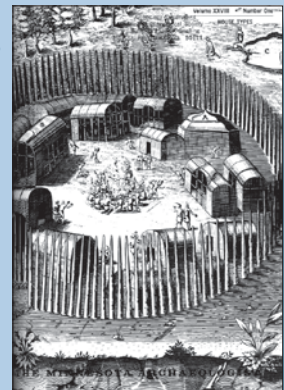
By Anna Morrow

Portions reprinted from a 3-part article written for *The Minnesota Archaeologist* in which we dig into the records - minutes, correspondence, and the journals - and without too much comment present excerpts, as written, in hopes of capturing the way in which things were then perceived. During the 1930s the minutes are written by hand and each recorder is unique.

**“He felt that in many cases women’s interests were likely to be superficial.”**

Articles by women had been accepted in the earliest issues, they were speakers at MAS meetings, and in 1935 Frances Densmore was voted an Honorary Member. Women were mentioned in the minutes and in the journal sometimes politely and sometimes not.

(Dec. 2, 1942) Mr. Gleason expressed his fear of the danger of a mixed group. He felt that in many cases women’s interests were likely to be superficial. He had however no prejudice against a woman really interested scientifically. It would be embarrassing to report failure of her election to a woman. We do not really need the money that their dues would bring in. [Further] Mr. Flaskerd told of taking the application of a woman living at Worthington who had already made a collection of over one thousand specimens which she had herself collected. He had taken her application and cash for her dues and after her application was voted down it was very embarrassing to return the fee for dues and tell her that her application had been voted down. After this experience he would never again take the application of a woman. [Finally] Thayer stated that at meetings of the Executive Council we enjoyed a very good time which it was possible would not be good if it were a mixed group. Soulen had very strong objections to admitting women and had



MAS History Continued on Page 5



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## Letter From The President

### Dear Minnesota Archaeological Society Members,

Last week the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Board was informed that there are two TV series planned that promote and glorify the looting and destruction of archaeological sites. They are American Diggers (scheduled for Spike TV) and Diggers (National Geographic TV).

#### From the SAA website:

In the US, there are millions of historical relics buried in backyards just waiting to be discovered and turned into profit. American Digger hopes to claim a piece of that pie as the series travels to a different city each week, including Detroit, MI, Brooklyn, NY, Chicago, IL, and Jamestown, VA searching for high-value artifacts and relics, some of which have been untouched for centuries. After pinpointing historical locations such as Civil War and Revolutionary War battlefields, Savage's first task is to convince reluctant homeowners to let his team dig up their property using state-of-the-art metal detectors and heavy-duty excavation equipment.

The promotion of both of these programs is an insult to anyone who is concerned with the preservation of our national historic resources. The premise of both shows glorifies the wanton destruction of historical and archaeological sites strictly for greed and profit, without regard to the importance of the scientific information they may contain. These shows are disgraceful, unethical, possibly illegal, and totally wrong. They need to be stopped! Help save the past for the future by responding to the links on page 7.

#### The following is a reprint or an e-mail from Fred Limp, RPA SAA President

Dear Colleagues,

The past SAA President, Bob Kelly wrote in a recent e-mail in response to American Diggers, "This shameless and shameful program will glorify and promote the mindless destruction of archaeological sites in the U.S." SAA and other groups, such as SHA, have already prepared and sent strong letters condemning both of these programs to the production companies, networks, and others.

Copies of the SAA letters can be found on the SAA website (<http://bit.ly/w2MHJM>, and <http://bit.ly/wzT7IA>). The letters provide details on why we are so concerned. Up to this point Spike TV has not responded to the public outcry. Leadership of National Geographic, however, has indicated that, while they are unable to stop the showing tomorrow on such short notice, they will place a disclaimer into the show that speaks to laws protecting archaeological and historic sites. They are also willing to enter into discussions with the archaeological community to determine how to raise awareness of the impacts of the use of metal detectors for treasure hunting. We will advise you of developments in this area.

We are also in conversations with SHA, RPA, AIA, NASA and others to develop a coordinated response and next steps.

**BUT** for the Spike TV program we need your help. We ask you to individually send letters and/or e-mails to the companies involved—or take advantage of social media outlets (see below)—urging them as strongly as possible to stop this show. The contact points that we have identified so far for the Spike TV project are provided on page 7.

Sincerely,  
Fred Limp, RPA SAA President

Rod Johnson  
President Minnesota Archaeological Society

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

*President's Letter continued on page 7*

# Minnesota Archaeological Society

2012 Annual Meeting and Banquet Friday, April 20th,  
at Sorin Hall on the campus of Hamline University.

Social Hour will begin at 6:30pm

Annual Meeting and election of officers at 7pm

Buffet at 7:30pm

Guest Speaker and lecture at 8pm

A catered cash wine bar will be available, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor.

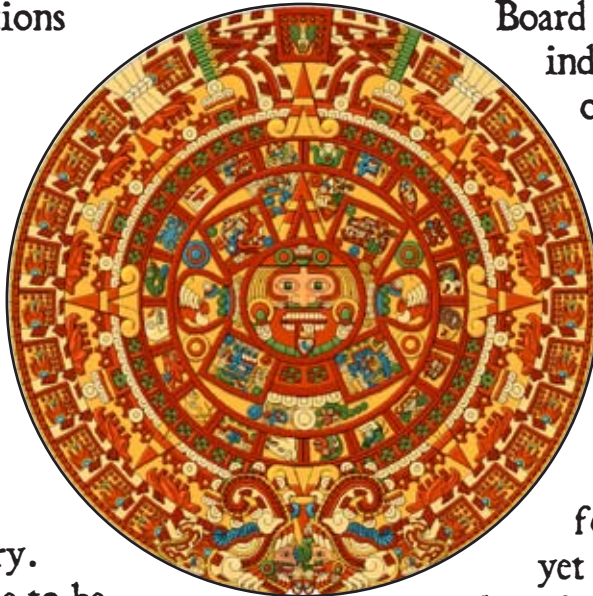
This year is also an election year so that the meeting will include a vote on candidates for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The current Board will forward candidates as it has in the past, but we encourage all members to nominate and would be happy to include additional names for the vote in each category.

The slate as of this time to be presented at the meeting will be: Rod Johnson for President, Pat Emerson for Vice President, Deborah Schoenholz for Secretary, and Paul Schoenholz for

Treasurer. If you would like to nominate someone who has spent time on the Board now or in the past, please indicate your selection

on your registration form or by contacting current Secretary Deb Schoenholz, [schoe030@umn.edu](mailto:schoe030@umn.edu). We also will ask for nominations from the floor.

Finally, our speaker for the evening has not yet been chosen, but we have interest from a fine list of local archaeologists with fascinating new information. We promise that you will be entertained and enlightened, as always.



*Cost is \$20.00*

*Contact Anna Morrow,  
[anmorrow@q.com](mailto:anmorrow@q.com) or  
612 922-7006 to attend*

*See page 4 for the reservation form  
and for directions to Sorin Hall*

## MAYAN END TIMES BUFFET

Cheese Enchilada, Chicken or Beef Fajitas  
Spanish Rice, Seasoned Black Beans, Southwest Pasta  
Seasonal Fruit, Chocolate Dessert  
Shredded Lettuce, Shredded Cheddar, Salsa, Sour Cream,  
Pico de Gallo Tortilla Chips and Guacamole

## Dates To Remember

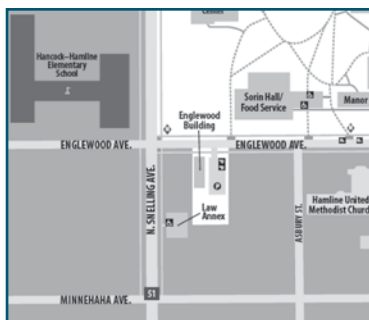


Experience the world oldest and most continually practiced craft as presented by Archaeologist and Expert Flint-knapper, Rod Johnson.

- March 10 & 11, 2012 National Eagle Center, Wabasha, Soar With Eagles
- August 11, 2012 Historic Trade Route Celebration, Outing, MN
- September 8–16 Minnesota Archaeology Week
- September 29, 2012 Archaeology Day, Kathio St. Park, Onamia, MN
- More to come

### MAS Offers Support For Local and County Archaeology Presentations

The Minnesota Archaeological Society is actively looking for lectures and presentations throughout the state that need support for speaker fees and travel expenses. We will be contacting local historical societies and other agencies in the future to see if some arrangements can be made. In the meantime, any readers who are interested in such a collaboration are invited to contact President Rod Johnson at [rodjohn33@msn.com](mailto:rodjohn33@msn.com). Outreach and education are the twin missions of MAS and we are happy to entertain ideas toward such goals through archaeological activities, lecture series, site tours, interpretive talks, and other hands-on learning experiences.



### To Get To Sorin Hall:

From I-94 take the Snelling Avenue exit, turn north onto Snelling. From Como Avenue, turn south on Snelling. Proceed to Englewood Avenue: turn east to 1535 Englewood. The nearest parking lot is behind Hamline Methodist Church: parking is free in all Hamline lots after 5:00 P.M. (street parking also available). Enter Sorin Hall's main doors and turn left, follow the signs to the Banquet Room.

## Minnesota Archaeological Society

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the MAS Annual Dinner and Lecture 2012:

Name[s]: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclosed \$20.00 per person payable to MAS

### Mail to:

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

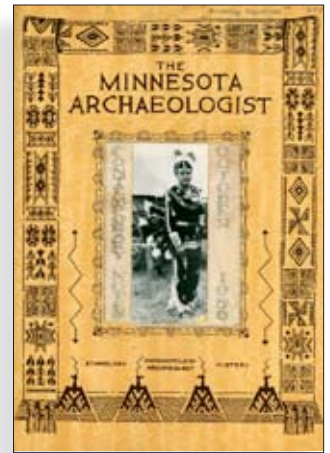
*MAS History Continued from Page 1*

stated that he would drop out if they were admitted and he wondered how many more might do the same... Mr. Killy questioned as to whether or not we were to have a little clubby group or a scientific group. He favored admitting women.

(ECM, May 12, 1944) Dr. Landers moved that it be recommended to the Society that women be admitted into membership and that there be no discrimination on the matter of sex in the selection of members for the Society. Motion seconded and carried. In the General Membership minutes of June 6, 1944, the vote to welcome women as members was “... eleven years and 3 mos.” It carried! A two-year process! At the November 8, 1944 meeting.

Sadly these personal touches to the minutes and journal articles began to change after the 1940s. Between 1957 and 1967, many of the minutes are missing. If anyone happens to have copies of these, the Society would be pleased to see them!

The 1970s and 1980s show that the membership of the Minnesota Archaeological Society was very active, sponsoring paraprofessional classes, field work, lectures, and an annual booth at the Minnesota State Fair. As the 1980s came to a close, Scott Anfinson's comprehensive study *Archaeology of the Central Minneapolis Riverfront* (Vols. 49, 50 of *The Minnesota Archaeologist*) was ready for publication. In about 1995, many of the formerly active members, for various reasons, were no longer available and publication of our journal was not current. The monthly lectures and other programs continued, with events such as a trip to Grand Mound and Nester Falls, Ontario (1990), a controlled surface collection at Rush Lake in Chisago County (1992), a weekend tour of the Effigy Mounds National Monument and environs (1997), field trips to the Jeffers Petroglyphs, Mille Lacs Kathio State Park, Grand Portage Area (1998), the Little Elk Heritage Preserve, and the Savanna Portage State Park (1999). There had been fairly good attendance by the membership but in the middle of that decade the number at the meetings, programs, and field trips began to decline.



**Conclusion**

As the Society moves into the new millennium confidence is growing that it will survive. The Board is now comprised of equal numbers of professionals and avocationalists, including archaeologists and historians, working well together. In June, 2001 the MAS became the sponsor of Archaeology Day at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park with the assistance of DNR Naturalist Jim Cummings. The interest in this event has grown each year with events such as atlatl construction, flint knapping instruction, and guided canoe trips on the lake. ■

**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.*

*Anna Morron, [anmorron@q.com](mailto:anmorron@q.com) or 612-922-7006*

*Costs are Individual \$25.00, Senior or Student: \$15.00, Household: \$30.00, All Institutions: \$40.00 US*

*Thanks!*

**Newsletter**

Send your MAS news & notices to the Editor: Michael Brey  
[mike\\_2@mkbrey.com](mailto:mike_2@mkbrey.com)

[www.mnarchsociety.org](http://www.mnarchsociety.org)



# The First First Americans

*A rediscovered prehistoric blade has reopened a debate about who first populated North America.*

By Brian Vastag, Washington Post

When the crew of the Virginia scallop trawler Cinmar hauled a mastodon tusk onto the deck in 1970, another oddity dropped out of the net: A dark, tapered stone blade, nearly 8 inches long and still sharp. Forty-two years later, this rediscovered prehistoric slasher has reopened debate on a radical theory about who the first Americans were and when they got here. Archaeologists have long held that North America remained unpopulated until about 15,000 years ago, when Siberian people walked or boated into Alaska and down the West Coast. But the mastodon relic turned out to be 22,000 years old, suggesting the blade was just as ancient. Whoever fashioned that blade was not supposed to be here.

Its makers likely paddled from Europe and arrived in America thousands of years ahead of the western migration, argues Smithsonian Institution anthropologist Dennis Stanford, making them the first Americans. "I think it's feasible," said Tom Dillehay, a prominent archaeologist at Vanderbilt University. "The evidence is building up, and it certainly warrants discussion." When Stanford proposed this "Solutrean hypothesis" in 1999, colleagues rejected it. But now, 13 years later, Stanford and Exeter University archaeologist Bruce Bradley lay out a detailed case -- bolstered by the curious blade and other stone tools recently found in the mid-Atlantic -- in a new book, "Across Atlantic Ice."

"I drank the Solutrean Kool-aid," said Steve Black, an archaeologist at Texas State University in San Marcos. "I had been very dubious. ... But I came away from the book feeling like it's an extremely credible idea." Other experts remain unconvinced. "Anyone advancing a radically different hypothesis must be willing to take his licks from skeptics," said Gary Haynes, an archaeologist at the University of Nevada-Reno.

Stone tools recovered from five mid-Atlantic sites are at the core of Stanford's case. Two of the sites lie on Chesapeake Bay islands, suggesting the Solutreans settled the region early on. Blades, anvils and other tools found by Smithsonian research associate Darrin Lowery were stuck in soil at least 20,000 years old.

Displaying some of the tools in his office at the National Museum of Natural History, Stanford handles a milky

*Solutreans continued on page 7*

"At the height of the last ice age," Stanford says, "mysterious stone-age Europeans known as the Solutreans paddled along an ice cap jutting into the North Atlantic. They lived like Inuits, harvesting seals and seabirds. They spread across North America," he argues, "hauling their blades with them."

*Right: Anthropologist Dennis Stanford and archaeologist Bruce Bradley say a distinctive knife, a tool from the last ice age, bolsters their case of who were the first Americans.*

*Photo: Bonnie Jo Mount, Washington Post*



## *Solutreans continued from page 6*

chert blade and says, “This stuff is beginning to give us a real nice picture of occupation of the Eastern Shore (of Maryland) around 20,000 years ago.” Further, the blades resemble those found at dozens of stone-age Solutrean sites in Spain and France, he says. “We can match each one of 18 styles up to the sites in Europe.”

In 2007, Lowery, who also teaches at the University of Delaware, was hired by a landowner to survey property on Tilghman Island, Md. Lowery saw a chunk of quartzite jutting out. It was an anvil, heavily marked -- a clear sign it was used to make stone tools. He dated the soil layer holding it with radiocarbon dating and a newer technique, optical stimulated luminescence. Both returned an age of at least 21,000 years.

A site 10 miles south, Oyster Cove, yielded more stone-age artifacts. Those too, came out of soil more than 21,000 years old. Lowery published the finds in 2010 in *Quaternary Science Reviews*, but it hardly made a ripple. One problem: The ancient dates are for the soil, not for the artifacts themselves. “But it’s still suggestive,” Dillehay said.

Also in 2008, Lowery toured a museum on Gwynn’s Island, Va., where the curator showed him their stone tools: An 8-inch blade, displayed next to a bit of mastodon tusk and a molar, recovered by the Cinmar. The tusk and blade were so unusual, the Cinmar’s captain, Thurston Shawn, had made a point of marking the spot on his charts. It was 60 miles east of the Virginia Cape, in 240 feet of water. At the end of the last ice age, when the oceans were low, that spot was dry land. Stanford carbon-dated the mastodon to 22,000 years old. He and Bradley -- two of the world’s foremost stone tool experts -- also scrutinized the blade. It had not been smoothed by wave action. They concluded the blade had not been pushed out to sea, but had originated where the Cinmar found it.

Little is known about the Solutreans, other than their location-- Spain, Portugal, and southern France -- and when they lived, beginning about 25,000 years ago. No skeletons have ever been found. And no boats. But they did leave behind art, of a diamond-shaped fish, of a seal with an arrow-headed line stabbing through it. Stanford contends the piece proves they had boats and knew how to live at the edge of an ice cap. However, he does acknowledge his evidence is scant. This spring, Stanford hopes to haul in more proof. He plans to dredge at the Cinmar site in search of more clues to an ice-age journey that just might have been the first voyage to America.

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## *President’s Letter continued from page 2*

### **Spike TV**

Scott Gurney and Deirdre Gurney  
Gurney Productions, Inc.  
8929 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 510  
Los Angeles, California 90045  
<http://www.gurneyproductions.com/contact>

### **Kevin Kay**

President, Spike TV  
1633 Broadway  
New York, New York 10019  
<http://www.spike.com/about/feedback/>

### **Stephen K. Friedman**

President, MTV  
c/o MTV Studios  
1515 Broadway  
New York, New York 10036  
Shana Tepper  
[shana.tepper@mtvstaff.com](mailto:shana.tepper@mtvstaff.com)

### **Philippe Dauman**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Viacom Inc.  
1515 Broadway  
New York, New York 10036  
<http://www.viacom.com/contact/Pages/default.aspx>

There are also Facebook pages where you can comment

One is a “People against American Diggers” facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/People-against-Spike-TVs-American-Digger/193110227460512>

The Spike TV announcement is available at: <http://aroundthenetworks.com/spike-tv-announces-unscripted-show-american-digger/>

If you would like to add comments to the Spike website, please visit the comments section at the bottom of the following page: <http://bit.ly/yQjIXP>

## MAS Membership

We recently mailed each member a letter indicating their status as members of MAS and we are overwhelmed at the response. Thank you every one for your continued (and then some) support of this organization. Donations are very welcome that we can use for our support of colleges and universities going through difficult economic times or for helping to sponsor Minnesota Archaeology Week, Open Day at Kathio State Park, and other archaeological events.

This is the third year that we have sent this information to indicate that we operate on the calendar year. Those of you who joined during the year would receive the *Minnesota Archaeologist* published in that year. Those who join late in a year have the choice of either receiving the journal published that year or the next. (The latest journal published and mailed was Volume 69 for 2010 - Volume 70 for 2011 is scheduled to be mailed this spring.)

How do you know exactly where your membership falls? The mailing label on your newsletter or journal indicates the year, e.g., 10, 11, 12, etc.

If you receive your newsletter on line and are not sure of your membership status let me know at [anmorrow@q.com](mailto:anmorrow@q.com) or 612 922 7006. Anna Morrow, MAS Membership/Publications.

### **MAS 2012 Annual Meeting Friday, April 20**

Join us once again this year for the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Minnesota Archaeological Society. As in past years, we will be meeting in Sorin Hall on the campus of Hamline University. See page 3 for details and page 4 for registration and directions to Sorin Hall.

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