

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.



Spring 2013



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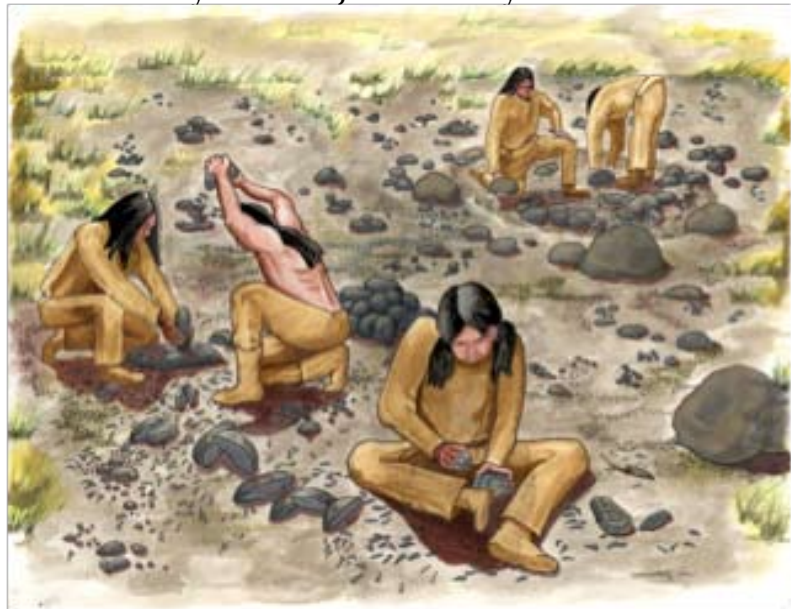


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Minnesota's Precontact Cultures: A Framework

Dr. Guy Gibbon, University of Minnesota



Cross Site Reconstruction

D. Schoenholz, artist

Science Museum archaeologists tentatively believe that this site was occupied by Archaic hunters who killed and butchered at least two bison, fashioning the needed tools from nearby materials. They then moved on, leaving most of the worn tools behind. The most unusual feature of the site is the use of basalt in tool-making. The remains represent a nearly complete basalt tool industry. This is unique within Minnesota, and only one other example has been reported in North America.

From Site to Story, [www.
http://www.fromsitetostory.org/](http://www.fromsitetostory.org/)

The Native Americans encountered in the middle of the 17th century by Minnesota's first European explorers were heirs to a rich and varied cultural tradition, a tradition that can be traced back at least 11,000 years. The first human inhabitants of the land that later became Minnesota were most likely people archaeologists call Paleoindians (10,000-3000 BC).

These pioneers entered the state in small numbers as the lobes of the



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Dear MAS Members,

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.

Return of Anna Morrow:

It was with great delight that long time board member Anna Morrow was able to return to the Board of Directors on February 5, after a sudden and prolonged illness. In addition to her brightening our evening with her attendance, as membership coordinator, Anna's system had to be hacked by the rest of us in order to send the 2011 and 2012 journals, and we are very happy to have her back on the job.

Minnesota Archaeologist:

The Minnesota Archaeologist Volume 70, 2011 and Volume 71, 2012 were mailed from Fort Snelling on Friday October 29, and January 18, 2012 respectively. These mailings now bring us up to date so that members will receive their 2013 volume in the same year. It is assumed that all copies were delivered successfully, so if you have not received your copy please contact us at the address at the bottom of this newsletter.

Annual Dinner Meeting:

We have begun planning the annual dinner meeting. A date of April 19th has been set for the event. There were several suggestions for a guest speaker; however, as yet no formal invitations have been issued. Registration forms for the annual dinner meeting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, or contact Deborah Schoenholz at 612 374-5886 to reserve your place at the table. (Editor's note: Since this letter was written, Robert Boszhardt has agreed to speak to us about his research into an early Mississippian colony at Trempeleau, Wisconsin. This is very exciting research, and you can read his abstract on the next page of this newsletter.)

New Board Member:

In December the Minnesota Archaeological Society welcomed Dan Wendt as a new member to the Board of Directors. Dan is recently retired from his 31-year career at General Mills as chemical engineer. I have known Dan for over twenty years through the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology and the Minnesota Historical Society; he is highly respected in the Minnesota archaeological community for his knowledge of lithic identification and sourcing and his extensive contribution to the MHS lithic comparative collection at Ft. Snelling. Dan has been a frequent contributor to The Minnesota Archaeologist with topics that span his interests in stone tool replication, processes, and technologies. Dan is also a skilled flint-knapper and you might have seen him demonstrating the craft at Historical Society events. He holds a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin Madison and lives in Lino Lakes, Minnesota.

Nifty Quotes:

"It is not who is right, but what is right, that is of importance."

"Learn what is true to do what is right." (Thomas H. Huxley)

Rod Johnson: 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

MAS Annual Dinner Meeting, Friday April 19, 2013

Lecture: A Very Early Mississippian Colony at Trempealeau, Wisconsin

Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt
Co-Director of the Mississippian Initiative Project
Adjunct, University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County

Around AD 1050 Cahokia rose rapidly to become America's first city, and with it began the Middle Mississippian Culture. Almost immediately, group of Cahokians canoed over 500 miles up the Mississippi River to establish a colony at the distinctive Trempealeau Bluffs. Although probable Mississippian platform mounds had been known at Trempealeau since the 1880s, it was not until 2010 and 2011 that extensive archaeological excavations were undertaken to explore the platforms and adjacent habitation areas. The results reveal a unique Mississippian outpost that coincides with the first decades of Cahokia's Lohmann phase. The colonists brought with them special pots, exotic cherts, architecture styles, celestial orientations, and a new religion to set up a temple complex in the midst of local Late Woodland Effigy Mound peoples. The colony seems to have been short-lived leaving questions as to why these Cahokians left the American Bottom, why they chose Trempealeau for their colony, how they interacted with the indigenous Effigy Mound people, and why they abandoned the temple at Trempealeau?



Location:

**Anderson Hall Rm. 111, Hamline University
774 Snelling Ave. St. Paul, 55104**

Heated underground parking garage, entrance off of Englewood. \$1.50 per hour. Take the elevator up to the 1st floor and Room 111 is just behind the restrooms and information desk.

Dinner Menu

*Complimentary Wine Bar
Herb Crusted Local Walleye
Mississippi Vegetable Delights
Basket Bread
Caramel Apple Cake Dessert*

Minnesota Archaeological Society

Please reserve _____ places for the MAS Annual Dinner and Lecture 2013.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

I enclose \$20 per person payable to MAS.

Mail to:

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

Dates To Remember

National Eagle Center

March 16, 17

Soar with the Eagles Program: Niabi Zoo, offering programs that include a Scarlet Macaw, Ecletus Parrot, Russian Tortoise and Burmese Python and Two-toed Sloth! St. Felix Auditorium, about 3 blocks from the National Eagle Center. Admission is valid all day at both locations. <http://www.nationaleaglecenter.org/>



Duluth Archaeology Center

April 15, 7 pm

“Community Layout At The Early Bronze Age Town Of Al-Lajjun, Jordan: Results From The 2012 Surface Survey Work.” Jennifer Jones, UMD Anthropology Department. Superior Public Library. No admission charged; public encouraged to attend. For more information, call Duluth Archaeology Center at 218/624-5489 or email archcenter@aol.com

Catch A Lot Of People Knapping

April 27, 2013

Screaming Chicken Knap-in near Spring Valley, Wisconsin (contact Rod Johnson for directions at rodjohn33@mas.com)

Catch Rod Knapping

May 5, 2-4 pm

Archaeology Awareness Day, Pond Dakota Mission, Bloomington, MN

July 9

Junior Archaeology Summer Camp, Carver County Historical Society, Waconia, MN

National Park Service's 2013 Archaeological Prospection Workshop

Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century

May 13-17, 2013, Cedar Point Biological Station, Ogallala, Nebraska. The site of Alkali Station was a major trail facility for travelers on the Oregon and California trails, the Pony Express, the transcontinental telegraph, and the frontier army. Co-sponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service's Midwest Archeological Center, the Lute Family, and the University of Nebraska's Cedar Point Biological Station. \$475.00. <http://www.cr.nps.gov/mwac/> or contact Steven L. DeVore, tel: (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; fax: (402) 437-5098; email: [<steve_de_vore@nps.gov>](mailto:steve_de_vore@nps.gov).

2013 LAKE SUPERIOR BASIN WORKSHOP

MARCH 15 (FRIDAY) & 16 (SATURDAY)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

DULUTH, MINNESOTA, USA

**Displays of archaeological materials;
Discussion and good times!**

**In Room 309 of Kirby Plaza Building
University of Minnesota Duluth**

**For more information:
SUSAN MULHOLLAND
Email: suemulholland@aol.com
Phone: 218-624-5489**

**To get on email list:
Susan Mulholland
Email: suemulholland@aol.com**

The workshop is free and open to the public.

THE NORTHERN LAKES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**“SMOKE ON THE WATER: PRELIMINARY
RESULTS FROM POST-FIRE SURVEYS IN
THE PAGAMI CREEK FIRE AREA,
ISABELLA AND ISLAND RIVERS, BWCA,
LAKE COUNTY, MINNESOTA”**

**Presented by:
LEE JOHNSON, HEATHER HOFFMAN AND
RYAN BROWN
HERITAGE PROGRAM STAFF
SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST**

**March 18, 2013 at 7 pm
Superior Public Library
1530 Tower Ave. Superior WI**

The presentation is free and open to the public.

Call the Duluth Archaeology Center for more information: 624-5489

<http://www.dulutharchaeologycenter.com/page8.html>



**THE
PALEOAMERICAN
ODYSSEY CONFERENCE**

Oct. 17-19, 2013 • Santa Fe, New Mexico

PRESENTATIONS • EXHIBITS • BANQUET

**A three-day conference focused on
the Ice Age colonization of the Americas.**

Attend. Learn about the latest research at Upper Paleolithic sites in Siberia and Japan; cutting-edge developments at Clovis, Pre-Clovis, and late Pleistocene sites in North and South America; megafaunal extinctions, and the genetic record of the earliest Americans.

Participate. Present a poster at the conference. Researchers and students are encouraged to present their original research.

To find more information on the conference, register, hotels, banquet, and poster submission forms visit:

PALEOAMERICANODYSSEY.COM

Organized by the Center for the Study of the First Americans and Southwestern Paleoamerican Society



**SOCIETY FOR
INDUSTRIAL
ARCHEOLOGY**

**2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 30-JUNE 2
MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL,
MINNESOTA**

The cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul are vibrant urban centers consisting of innovative industries, world-renowned educational facilities, beautiful natural landscapes, and a thriving creative community consisting of arts, food and music. We hope you come experience the Twin Cities at the 2013 Society for Industrial Archeology Conference

For more information about the SIA and this conference, or to become a member, visit us online at www.sia-web.org or contact Amanda Gronhvd at 612-670-6431 or Gronhvd@10000LakesArchaeology.com or Tim Tumberg at 651-468-7726 or Tim.Tumberg@mnhs.org.

Minnesota Archaeological Society Membership

LETTER FROM MEMBERSHIP CHAIR ANNA MORROW: OUT OF ACTION

I want to thank those MAS Board Members who took over the membership records for the last six months. I am back now and can be contacted at 612 922-7006 or anmorrow@q.com if you have any questions at all about your membership. Some checks have been slow to go through the bank so please have patience with that. Also remember that the membership fees have changed for 2013 and are as follows:

USA

Standard: \$30.00 (one person)
Household: \$40.00 (two or more)
Senior: (65 plus) \$15.00
Active student: \$15.00
Institution: \$60.00

Both USA and Canada

Sustaining: \$100. (Receive free MAS mugs.)
Benefactor: \$250. (Receive free MAS mugs plus a seat at the annual dinner meeting as an honored guest.)

Canada

Standard: \$40.00 (one person)
Household: \$50.00 (two or more)
Institution: \$70.00

Attention Institutions: Did your library receive Volume 70, 2011 and Volume 71, 2012 of The Minnesota Archaeologist? If not, please let me know.

Thanks so much. Anna Morrow

Newsletter

Send your MAS news & notices to the Editor: Deborah Schoenholz
schoe030@umn.edu

www.mnarchsociety.org





Late Paleoindian point from the Wendt site. From Johnson et al., Superior National Forest (2009) Preliminary Results from the 2009 Interagency Field Trip on the Superior National Forest. MAS Lecture.

last major glacier, the Wisconsin, receded. They entered a raw landscape different from the one we are familiar with today. Their sites are difficult to locate, since they are small, contain few artifacts, are few in number, and are usually deeply buried beneath more recent sediments. In fact, Paleoindian sites are known primarily from a scatter of large and distinctive lanceolate (lancelike) projection points. Archaeologists know little about their daily life compared to the lifeways of their descendants, though they seem in some areas to have been highly mobile gatherers and hunters who pursued big game such as bison and mammoth.

The Paleoindians were followed by Plano and Archaic hunters and foragers, who may have been their descendants (3000-1000 BC). Their lifeways emerged in part as adjustments to a rapidly changing post-glacial environment and the extinction of mammoth and other Ice Age mammals. New complexes of plants and animals appeared as the spruce forests of the Paleoindian period followed the retreating ice northward. The melting ice exposed new land surfaces with extensive lakes and large, swift rivers quite unlike any in present-day Minnesota. These people increasingly specialized in the exploitation of smaller game, fish, shellfish, plant foods, and other energy resources that were not very abundant in late glacial environments. Their more varied artifact assemblages reflect this adjustment in subsistence practices. Archaic hunters and foragers seem to have been less nomadic and more numerous than Paleoindian and Plano societies. As a result, their sites, which are easily identified by the presence of large notched and stemmed projectile points, are more frequently discovered and excavated by archaeologists.

By the time the Woodland culture developed, all four biotic provinces were in place in the state. These included the Hudsonian Biotic Province, the most northerly and sometimes called the Spruce-Fir-Moose-Caribou Biome, now covering only a small slice of northeastern Minnesota; the Canadian Biotic Province, or what most Minnesotans call the Northwoods; the Carolinian Biotic Province, also called the Oak-Deer-Maple Biome; and the Illinoian Biotic Province, or the Grass-Oak-Bison Biome. Hunter-gatherers from the northern forests and horticulturalists from the southern Carolinian province entered the Illinoian province seasonally to hunt the herds of buffalo, and people who lived year-round on the prairies had a successful economy that remained largely unchanged for thousands of years. Eventually sizeable farming villages were established along a few of the major rivers that flowed through the prairies.

In Minnesota, [ensuing] Woodland cultures (1000 BC-AD 1800) are separated into an earlier Initial Woodland period and a later Terminal Woodland period. Although a hunter-gatherer lifeway continued, the Initial Woodland is marked by the first construction of earthen burial mounds and pottery vessels. These innovations did not enter all areas of the state at the same time or necessarily together, and, as a result, there was overlap in time between some later Archaic and early Initial Woodland cultures. Because Initial Woodland sites are less

Call for Papers for the 2013
Minnesota Archaeologist

There's still time to submit papers for the 2013 volume of *The Minnesota Archaeologist*. We're always happy to have longer reports, but don't forget the option of submitting a Research Note. Research Notes are short and more limited in scope. A typical research report might be 1 or 2 pages, plus maybe a map and a photo. This can be a good way to announce completion of a survey, to showcase an especially interesting artifact, or to announce new a radiocarbon date—to name just a few examples.

Please send any submissions or questions to the editor, Kent Bakken, at bakk0029@umn.edu

deeply buried than earlier sites and are marked by the presence of burial mounds and distinctive ceramics, they have been examined more frequently by archaeologists and grouped together into archaeological cultures.

Terminal Woodland people were also hunters and gatherers. However, their economy in the northwoods was increasingly supplemented by the harvesting of wild rice. The number of people in the region rose dramatically, and major, abrupt changes occurred in ceramics and other artifact forms, and in settlement patterns. Archaeologists have generally relied on the geographic distribution of the distinctive ceramics and burial practices of the period to identify archaeological cultures in this region of the state. Examples of regional groups are Kathio, Blackduck, and Psinomani.

In the part of the state covered by deciduous forests and prairies, Terminal Woodland people gradually began to supplement their economy with maize; that is, with the domesticated plant we call corn. Some people built distinctive “effigy” mounds having the shape of birds, bears, and other animals. Most of these southern Terminal Woodland societies abruptly adopted new lifeways and artifact assemblages, too. Archaeologists group these transformed societies together and regard them as a northern expression of a Mississippian way of life (AD 1000-1800). Mississippian culture was a more complex society based on agriculture centered along the rich river bottoms of the Mississippi basin to the south. Mississippian sites are easily distinguished from Woodland sites by their distinctive ceramics, by their larger size and greater artifact density, and by the presence of maize fragments. Archaeologists have identified three Mississippian complexes in the state: Silvernale, Oneota, and Plains Village.



Blackduck Ware, Upper Rice Lake site. From Gibbon (2012), Upper Rice Lake (21CE04): A Multiple Component Woodland Site in Clearwater County, Minnesota. The Minnesota Archaeologist 72.

A precontact history of Minnesota that reveals the relevance of archaeology to our understanding of the world today

ARCHAEOLOGY OF MINNESOTA:

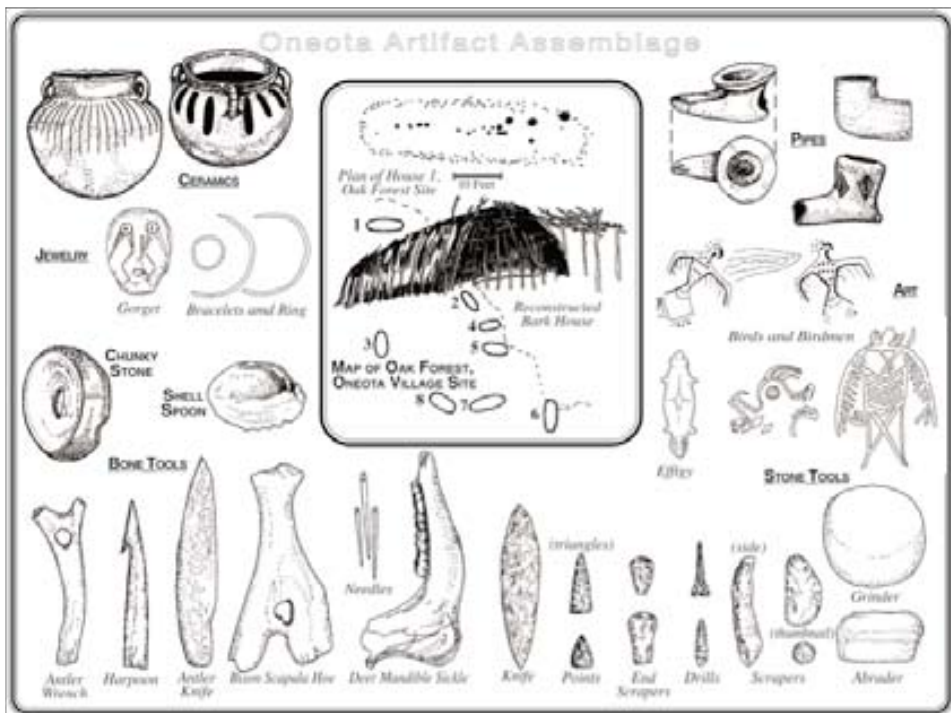
The Prehistory of the Upper Mississippi River Region

By Guy Gibbon

University of Minnesota Press | 2012
ISBN 978-0-8166-7909-6 | \$34.95

From archaeological materials, Guy Gibbon reconstructs the social, economic, and political systems—the lifeways—of those who inhabited what we now call Minnesota for thousands of years before the first contact between native peoples and Europeans. Gibbon shows how the study of Minnesota archaeology is relevant to a broader understanding of long-term patterns of change in human development throughout the world.

For more information, including the table of contents, visit the book's webpage: <http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/archaeology-of-minnesota>



D. Schoenholz, artist



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Occasional Publications in Minnesota Anthropology:

1. *The Objjway Indians Observed: Papers of Fred K. Blessing Jr.* 1977.
2. *Some Studies of Minnesota Prehistoric Ceramics: Papers Presented at the First Council for Minnesota Archaeology Symposium.* 1978.
3. *The Lake Bronson Site (21KT1): A Multi-Component Prehistoric Site on the Prairie-Woodland Border in Northwestern Minnesota.* 1978.
4. *The Alton Anderson Site (21WW4), Watonwan County, Minnesota.* 1983.
5. *A Handbook of Minnesota Prehistoric Ceramics.* 1978.
6. *The Dead River Site (21OT51).* 1979.
7. *Ojibwewi-Ikidowinan: An Ojibwe/English Word Resource Book.* 1979.
8. *Bibliography of Ojibwe Resource Material.* 1981.
9. *Current Directions in Midwestern Archaeology: Selected Papers from the Mankato Conference.* 1981.



Contact Anna Morrow at anmorrow@q.com or 612 922 7006