

# 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 2015



### This Issue



Ft. Snelling  
Inventory  
Project  
pp.1,5-6

Letter from  
the President  
p.2



Historical Society  
Collaborative  
p.3



Dates to Remember  
p.4



MAS 2015 Annual  
Meeting  
p.7



### Labor, Leisure, and Smoking: Tobacco Pipes and French Canadian Voyageurs during the Fur Trade Era in North America



The 2015 Minnesota Archaeological Society Annual Dinner meeting will held on Friday, April 24 this year, once again at Anderson Hall on the Hamline University campus. Our speaker will be **Dr. Rob Mann, St. Cloud State University**. Details and registration for dinner can be found on page 7.



Smoking “une pipe” was more than simply a leisurely practice among laboring class French Canadian voyageurs. Rather, smoking played an active role in the struggle over the terms and conditions of the fur trade workplace. Clay pipes were key material symbols of male French Canadian identity and were even celebrated in the voyager’s chansons—songs used to keep time as they paddled. Fur trade elites (the bourgeois),

however, tended to link smoking with “laziness,” a powerful trope in capitalist discourse. This paper examines the practice of smoking among the voyageurs and the role of clay pipes in mediating class tensions and reproducing French Canadian identity.



### Historic Fort Snelling Artifact Inventory Project

Patricia Emerson

Most people in Minnesota are familiar with Historic Fort Snelling as the earliest permanent presence of the United States government in what is now Minnesota, and as a reconstructed 1820s fort that is actively interpreted for the public. Fewer know about the extensive

*Inventory Project continued on page 5*

Spring 2015 Newsletter  
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 recent Board of Directors activities. The following is a brief recap of the events, discussions, and decisions that transpired during the past quarter.

#### Treasure Needed:

During the February meeting of the Board of Directors, Paul Schoenhotz announced his resignation as Treasurer of the Minnesota Archaeological Society, effective in April 2015. Paul has provided an outstanding performance of duties since the resignation of our previous Treasurer Paul Mielke. His insight on financial matters and business acumen has provided extremely good direction for decisions made during his tenure. I, for one, will miss Paul.

The by-laws of MAS require that “in the absence of a Treasurer, all materials will be turned over to the Secretary.” Although this is a good policy and a reasonable safeguard, it does put undue responsibility on the Secretary, who is already busy with her own duties.

The Minnesota Archaeological Society is in need of a Treasurer. Anyone interested in taking this position please contact me at the address below.

#### TPT-MAS Collaboration:

In the Winter Newsletter of 2014 I reported that talks had begun on a partnership between TPT and the Society to produce a video, “Scientific Minnesota Archaeology: What We Know and How We Know It” (a suggested title). Since the initial talks, board member Jeremy Nienow has been communicating with Tom Trow from TPT and has presented the Board with a project proposal that Tom has put together. Briefly, MAS and TPT would collaborate on a 30-minute DVD, high definition video, with closed-captions, about how scientific research is done using archaeological projects as examples. The video would be aired on TPT and would be promoted on the air and in their magazine and could be further distributed to classrooms for educational purposes. As the fiscal agent for the Legacy grant funds to be sought for this project, MAS would own the rights. Watch for further developments as we pursue this conversation.

Rod Johnson: President

Nifty Quotes: “There are things that money just can’t buy, like manners, morals, and common sense.” (Unknown)

Visit us on Facebook

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).

## Metro-Area Historical Society Collaborative Creates Archaeological Liaison Position

Ramsey County Historical Society, as lead coordinator of a four-agency collaborative (Anoka County, Dakota County, Ramsey County, and Scott County), has been awarded a Legacy Partnership Grant for a 12-month pilot program providing archaeology and cultural resource management outreach services to local history organizations. This project will address immediate needs of participating organizations including public programming, data collection, collections care, and staff training, while additionally providing valuable insights into the long-term needs of these local history organizations.

The MAHSC has hired Jeremy Nienow, PhD., RPA for the archaeological partner in this project.

The list of objectives for this project includes:

1. Providing each county with an archaeological baseline/county level archaeological context report.
2. Undertaking an archaeological assessment of each institution’s holdings, including objects in their collections as well as county owned/operated properties.
3. Based on the archaeological assessment above, executing two RFPs for additional laboratory knowledge specific to each organizations needs. This could include AMS carbon dating, pollen and starch analysis, wood and charcoal identification, fiber analysis, phytolith analysis, 3D scanning of objects, faunal analysis, and others as needed.
4. Developing structured grant options at various levels with hypothetical projects tailored to the

interests and needs of partner organizations.

5. Providing a simple guide for developing RFPs and guidelines on how to scope archaeological projects.

6. Providing public programming that presents project results to the constituents of each partner organization as well as presentations to Minnesota museum and local history fields via appropriate local conferences.



Ultimately, the pilot project will result in recommendations by the partner organizations and consulting archaeologist to MNHS regarding the Legacy grant program. These recommendations may include sample fast-track grant application, program modifications, metrics for evaluating archaeology projects, and evaluation of how the shared consultant concept worked, with ideas for how these kinds of projects may be improved and how the grant program may be modified to ensure participation and success by future applicants.

If you have questions or comments on this program and how you can get involved in any of its objectives, contact Jeremy: [Jeremy.Nienow@gmail.com](mailto:Jeremy.Nienow@gmail.com) or 651-295-3744.



Minnesota Archaeological Society

## Join the Minnesota Archaeology Society

### 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

•If you receive your newsletter by email and do not know when you renewed your membership, please let me know.

•Getting the newsletter by snail mail or by e-mail? Prefer the other? Let me know.

Thanks so much. Anna Morrow, amorrow@q.com

Send your MAS news & notices to the Editor: Deborah Schoenholz



## Dates To Remember

**Saturday, April 11, 2015** at 11am: Richard Buckley, “Richard III, The King Under the Car Park: the story of the search for the burial place of England’s last Plantagenet king,” in the Pillsbury Auditorium at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.



**April 30, 2015, 6 to 8 p.m. Fee: Free**

**Exhibit Opening: Remembering the Bohemian Flats: One Place, Many Voices**

Mill City Museum, Minneapolis MN

A public reception and lecture by State Archaeologist Dr. Scott Anfinson will open the new exhibit “Remembering the Bohemian Flats: One Place, Many Voices.” Dr. Anfinson will discuss the first intensive urban archaeology done in Minnesota associated with three major construction projects during the 1980s and 1990s; West River Parkway, the Hennepin Avenue Bridge and the Federal Reserve Bank. Developed by University of Minnesota students, this exhibit explores the many perspectives on the people and the conditions of Minneapolis’s early immigrant neighborhoods, focusing on the Bohemian Flats adjacent to the Mississippi River. Complimentary East European food from Kramarczuk’s and a cash bar by D’Amico Catering will be available. The exhibit is located in the museum’s central Mill Commons and is free and open to the public during regular museum hours through November 1, 2015.

**July 18, 2015, Aug. 1, 2015, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee: \$65/\$60 for MNHS members.**Reservations: required, call 651-259-3015 or register online

**Archaeology for Kids One-Day Camp**

Historic Fort Snelling, St. Paul MN

### Conferences

**April 6-12:** 94th Central States Anthropology Society Meeting, Crownn Plaza Hotel. St.Paul

**May 25-29:** National Park Service’s 2015 Archaeological Propection Workshop

## National Park Service’s 2015 Archaeological Propection Workshop

**Current Archaeological Propection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century**  
**May 25-29, 2015**

**Tobias-Thompson Complex sites, Rice County, Kansas**

Eight sites showcase the Little River Focus of the Great Bend Aspect dating from 1500-1700 AD. The sites have been related to the historic Wichita and may have been among the villages visited by Coronado in Quivira in 1542. Co-sponsors include the National Park Service’s Midwest Archeological Center and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, the Department of Anthropology at Wichita State University, and the Archaeological Division of the Kansas State Historical Society. This will be the twenty-fifth year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods. The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with on-hands use of the equipment in the field. Registration is \$475.00. Application forms for this resident workshop are available at <<http://www.nps.gov/mwac/>>. For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873; tel: (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; fax: (402) 437-5098; email: <[steve\\_de\\_vore@nps.gov](mailto:steve_de_vore@nps.gov)>.

## 94th Central States Anthropology Society 2015 Annual Meeting

**April 9-12, 2015**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel St. Paul – Riverfront, St. Paul**

The 2015 conference will be hosted by the University of Minnesota, Macalester College, Minnesota State University, and the Science Museum of Minnesota and will feature Dr. Leith Mullings, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology in the Graduate Center at The City University of New York, and former President of the American Anthropological Association, serving from 2011 to 2013.

Online early registration rates (until March 20, 2015) are: CSAS regular member: \$70; CSAS student member: \$30; non-member: \$90; student non-member: \$40. On-site registration rates are: CSAS regular member: \$90; CSAS student member: \$40; non-member: \$110; student non-member: \$50.

All participants (presenters, co-presenters, discussants, etc.) should register online. Those who cannot register online must contact CSAS Secretary/Treasurer Harriet Ottenheimer mahafan@ksu.edu to apply for a mail-in registration form.

To register, go to [http://www.aaanet.org/sections/csas/?page\\_id=22](http://www.aaanet.org/sections/csas/?page_id=22)

*Inventory Project continued from page 1*

archaeological excavations that were conducted at the Fort between 1957 and the 1980s as part of the process of researching its history. Fewer still know of the extensive collections of archaeological materials retained from those excavations.

Today the Fort Snelling collections occupy over 600 cubic feet of storage space in the curation facility at the Minnesota History Center. Because they were excavated and cataloged in the pre-digital age, most of the artifact catalogs exist only as hand-written records. There are very few electronic records that describe the objects, which makes it difficult to conduct research in the collections.



*Hair tonic bottle. The embossed letters read “KATHAIRON” and the adjacent side reads “FOR THE HAIR”. Katha powder is a brown hair dye made from tree bark that is still used in hair products today. Hair dyes and restoratives were apparently popular with soldiers*

As part of the Minnesota Historical Society’s current effort to revitalize Fort Snelling and expand its interpretation, a Legacy-funded project was launched in the fall of 2013 to inventory,

organize and interpret the archaeological collections from the Fort. Staff of the Minnesota Historical Society’s Archaeology Department, aided by student workers from the University of Minnesota and Hamline University, have been working their way through the collections.



*This Old Copper point was found during excavation of the Long Barracks at Fort Snelling. It is an unusual form for Minnesota and is more typical of Michigan.*



*Hand-carved bone dominos reflect leisure-time activities at Fort Snelling.*

*Inventory Project continued on page 6*

The goals of the Fort Snelling Collections project are to create digital records for the artifacts, update storage conditions, and identify artifacts that can contribute to new interpretations of the long history of the confluence of rivers that became home to Fort Snelling. In the 18 months that have passed since the project began, over 275 boxes of artifacts have been inventoried, comprising an estimated total of 79,000 artifacts. The pictures below show some of the objects that have come to light.

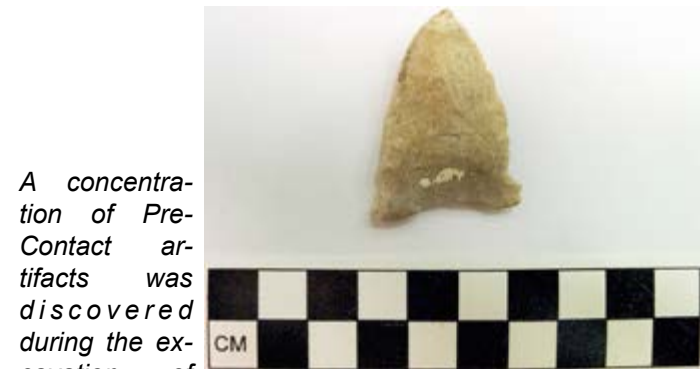


Spongeware was a popular early to mid-19th century type of ceramic decoration. It was extensively produced in England. Many spongeware pieces do not carry maker's marks so their exact origin can't be determined.

This metal cut-out is a toy soldier, reflecting the presence of soldiers' wives and children at Fort Snelling. It appears to be a man dressed in a Revolutionary War-era uniform.



Fragments of a stoneware bottle that contained Nieder Selters mineral water imported from Germany. The water was advertised as a cure for everything from asthma to scurvy. The name Selters was the origin of the word "seltzer" as a term for sparkling water.



A concentration of Pre-Contact artifacts was discovered during the excavation of 1820s buildings at Fort Snelling. This side-notched point is one of about a dozen stone tools in the assemblage.

This handpainted plate reflects improved ceramic manufacturing techniques at the end of the 18th century that made elaborate decoration such as this chinoiserie style possible. Hand-painted decoration was largely replaced by transfer printed decoration by the mid-1800s.



Handle from a brush sold by the Clark & Frost pharmacy in St. Paul during the 1880s. Frost remained in business for many years, and his final business location is now the popular St. Paul restaurant W.A. Frost.



## Minnesota Archaeological Society Annual Dinner

The 2015 dinner meeting will held on Friday, April 24 this year, once again at Anderson Hall on the Hamline University campus. Our speaker will be **Dr. Rob Mann, St. Cloud State University**, whose presentation, to begin at 7:30 will be

### Labor, Leisure, and Smoking: Tobacco Pipes and French Canadian Voyageurs during the Fur Trade Era in North America



MAS members and their friends are invited to once again spend an evening of fellowship and shared interest at Hamline University. Meet old friends for appetizers and a cash bar, followed by a delicious dinner and a delightful discussion of the customs of our voyageur past. Come early and stay late, and don't forget to let us know you are coming by returning the form below. There will be accommodation for students and others who are not dining after 7:00 pm.

- 6:00 Registration and mixer, cash wine and beer bar
- 7:00 Buffet Dinner
- 7:15 Business meeting
- 7:30 Lecture



**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**

London Broil with Roasted Potatoes  
and Whole Green Beans  
Asparagus Shiitake Pasta Roll  
Pear and Nut Salad  
Red Velvet Cake Dessert

*Minnesota Archaeological Society*

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the MAS Annual Dinner and Lecture 2015.  
Vegetarian meal requested \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose \$25 per person payable to MAS.

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

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

Anyone interested in becoming Treasurer for MAS,  
please contact President Rod Johnson ASAP!



# 50+ Years of The Minnesota Archaeologist

\$100

CD Set in 48 volumes(1935-1989)

Contact Anna Morrow at [anmorrow@q.com](mailto:anmorrow@q.com) or 612 922 7006