



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

CHAPTER

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 12 Number 7 Newsletter JULY 1987

President: W.S. Steele Editor: Debra Goldman

BOARD MEETING

6:00 p.m., Friday, July 17

The July Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, July 17 at Beth Read's office, 1489 South Miami Avenue. All board members please attend

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

8:00 p.m., Friday, July 17

July's meeting will be a cool change for our members who are getting a bit warm and/or bugged under the chickee. "The Stuff of Dreams: Native American Dolls", an exhibition currently at the air-conditioned Historical Museum of Southern Florida, will be all ours on Friday night, thanks to the efforts of Bill Steele. The exhibition, organized by the Museum of the American Indian, shows over 100 dolls including Pre-Columbian clay dolls, Hopi Katchinas, a golden doll from Peru and paper dolls from Mexico. (See Herald Art Critic Helen Kohn's wonderful review in this issue.)

Getting Downtown: Metrorail is an excellent way to get to the Cultural Center where the Historical Museum of Southern Florida is located. GOVERNMENT CENTER is the stop which leaves you an escalator away from the Cultural Center. If you want company for the ride, a group will be leaving from the UNIVERSITY STATION on U.S. 1 by the U of M at 7:30 p.m. There is free parking available.

If you are driving downtown, there is a parking garage one block west of the Museum which is attached by a walkway. Free parking is available in lots south of the Museum and on the street.

The meeting will be held on Friday, July 17 at 8:00 p.m. at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami.

OKEECHOBEE BATTLEFIELD PROJECT

Another phase of the Okeechobee Battlefield Project was completed last week after 8 weeks of metal detecting, shovel testing, post hole digging and excavating.

Two gun barrels and a bayonet from the site are undergoing electrolysis at the Museum. Several military buttons, gun parts and approximately 30 musket balls are some of the military artifacts found during the past weeks. The location of these artifacts in addition to those found by Bill Steele in 1986 (including 3 iron adzes and a sword tip) seem to define the boundaries of Taylor's Camp.

As most of you know, the Battle of Okeechobee was a Second Seminole War battle that took place on December 25, 1837 under the command of Col. Zachery Taylor. 27 soldiers were killed and supposedly buried in the camp.

PRE-COLUMBIAN CERAMICS FROM COSTA RICA

"Pre-Columbian Ceramics from Costa Rica" is an exhibition at the Lowe Art Museum through August 23. The Museum is located at 1301 Stanford Drive, University of Miami, Coral Gables. Call 284-3535 for more information.

ANNUAL REPORT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

This year the Society has had the pleasure of hearing exciting reports of interesting excavations throughout the state, on the Caribbean Islands, and in Central America. Members of the Society itself have contributed reports of their own research and collections.

The follow-up examination of spoil materials from the Cheetum Site was conducted over a period of several months because of the gracious gift of Wes and Dee Coleman of space and time. Bill Lyons, Jim McLellan and Jim Lord were regular investigators of that material. Of course, they were joined by Wes and Dee. Many interesting artifacts were salvaged which will give a much more complete picture of this unique archaic Everglades site even though the material was out of provenience. We ended the search with a heartily enjoyable afternoon of sorting and barbecuing.

The members of the Society gave moral support and staffed, as joint members of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, the year-long excavation and examination of the Old Cutler Fossil Site.

A contribution of friends to buy boxes for the zoo-archaeological collection at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida allowed that collection to be accessioned and put into use.

The Society again this year sponsored a booth in The Harvest Festival at the Youth Fairgrounds. A very exciting exhibit showing the animals and human material from the Old Cutler Fossil Site was assembled under the directorship of Norma Dieppa and John Ayer. Bob and Debbie Carr, Debra Goldman, Rick Diaz, Jose Munoz and Guy Arnold also supported this project.

Under the very professional guidance of Ed Bell, Don Mattucci and Judi Trimble put together a tape of the Society's work for the year. Ed had taped the complete proceedings of the joint meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences and Florida Anthropological Society in Gainesville last April. With the cooperation of WLRN Public Television the tapes were shown throughout the summer of 1986.

We are justifiably proud that members Bill Johnson, Don Mattucci, Judi Trimble, and Bob Carr all had work published in the Florida Anthropologist this year. Members Bill Steele and Emily Perry Dieterich had articles published in Tequesta.

Representatives of the Society joined with members of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society in several southwest Florida excavations.

Our meetings this year have been held in the historic Doc Thomas home, now the Tropical Audubon Society's home in South Miami, due to the careful arrangements of Emily Dieterich. And thanks to Ron Phenix, we enjoyed cool drinks and sweet snacks.

The constant support of Bob Carr, John Carruthers, Emily Dieterich, Debra Goldman, Beth Read, Jim Lord, Ron Phenix and Vivian Peters has made my job much easier.

And it is to Debra Goldman and Beth Read that I feel we owe our deepest debt of gratitude for without their faithful publication of the newsletter we would have lost the continuity that kept us together. There was news, humor, Bob's cartoons, and more news to cheer our souls.

Sue Goldman
 President 1986-87

ANNUAL REPORT 1986-1987

Archaeological Society of Southern Florida

3/2/86 Opening Balance		\$ 1,292.48
Income (Membership Raffles, Sales, etc.)		<u>2,248.50</u>
		\$ 3,540.98
Meeting Rooms	\$ 325.00	
Newsletter/Brochures	1,085.07	
Miscellaneous (Equipment use & expenses)	195.75	
Prizes	25.00	
Secretary of State	20.00	
Bank Charges	78.45	
Speakers	<u>175.00</u>	
		<u>\$ 1,904.24</u>
4/24/87 Closing Balance		<u>\$ 1,636.71</u>

Prepared by:

John Carruthers II
Treasurer, 1986-1987

Fossil robbers strip West of archaeological treasures

SALT LAKE CITY — (UPI) — In a remote canyon in the American West, where a dinosaur stepped in mud tens of millions of years ago, a man pries up the fossil footprint and loads it in his pickup.

Weeks later, in Japan, a wealthy collector pays \$3,000 for it.

That scenario has occurred with increasing frequency in the last decade as large or rare fossils become chic collectors' items.

There is general alarm that public lands are being stripped, not by simple souvenir hunters but by commercial collectors feeding a world market, depriving the public of a valuable cultural resource and paleontologists of data.

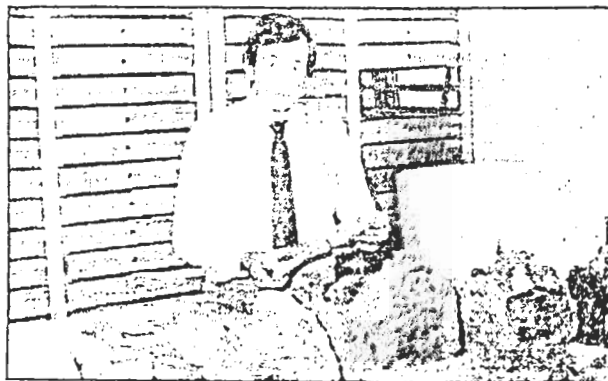
"We have a lot of people just bootlegging it and taking commercial quantities," said Bob Randolph of the Bureau of Land Management. "They take it by the tons.

"You can see areas where there were [petrified] logs and trees and things like that, and now there's just scraps on the ground."

In the geologic formation known as Wheeler Amphitheater in Utah's desert, collectors have hauled away trilobites, animals that looked like horseshoe crabs. Near Moab, in eastern Utah, huge fossils have been pillaged.

"There's fossil fish in Wyoming that are collected and sold for hundreds of dollars, if not thousands of dollars," Randolph said.

"I think it's a universal problem," said Dave Gillette, curator of paleontology at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. "Too much of the public land in the West is where the fossil sites are located, and that public land has easy access."



United Press International

Bob Randolph of the Bureau of Land Management displays dinosaur fossils of the sort that command huge prices.

Jason Lillegraven of the University of Wyoming said the crime is keeping pace with demand.

"There is very much a growing market for vertebrate fossils, fossils in general, that go literally on the international market," he said. "A lot of magnificent Wyoming fossils end up" in Europe.

Dan Chure, paleontologist at Dinosaur National Monument in Utah and Colorado, said there is a legal market for fossils and catalogs from dealers list prices of up to \$20,000 for rare finds.

While some collecting on public lands is legal, Chure said, there are so many fossils on the market that a large proportion must be illegal.

The problem of the stripping of fossils and petrified wood from public lands parallels more publi-

cized concerns over the massive theft of treasures from sites where ancient Indians lived.

Randolph said high prices have brought many people, especially those in financially depressed areas, into the field to collect bones and wood. "These people are starting to get hungry and they're looking for some money," he said.

But officials said the growing market is taking its toll.

"Even the plunderers are complaining there's nothing else to pick up," said Jim Madsen, state paleontologist for Utah. "The people with tons of petrified wood in their back yard say, 'You can't get any good wood anymore.'"

"The same with dinosaur bones. There's no good red dinosaur bones anymore."

The Miami Herald / Friday, June 26, 1987

Oh, you beautiful dolls

By HELEN L. KOHEN
Art Critic

Dolls, those cuddly soft things of memory, are first cousins to idols. If each is a human vision, each is also an instrument through which to understand — even master — humankind.

That is one of the fascinating messages of *The Stuff of Dreams*, an exhibition at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida that taps into the visionary life of Indian societies from Northern Alaska to Southern Chile, and from the Eastern woodlands to Western Mexico.

Organized by the Museum of the American Indian, the show establishes a wealth of ethnographic information from the smallest — and seemingly

Art Review

most casual — sorts of objects. From South and Central America, there are pre-Columbian archaeological finds, mostly clay fetishes and charms, which shed light on lost cultures; from Greenland, a wooden doll made in the last century once the beloved of a child, and now showing much use; from the North American Southwest, a sparkling "Hollywood Indian" couple, made recently to satisfy tourist tastes for attractive, if

Please turn to DOLLS / 14D

Right, a 20th Century 'Mapuche Man on Horse' made in Chile.



DOLLS / from 1D

inauthentic, souvenirs.

How a doll functioned determines how it is displayed in the show. The toy group, the prehistoric pieces and the dolls made for purchase have their own cases, as do those made to summon supernatural forces and those utilized in tribal rituals to teach or to tease. In addition, little environments have been set up, one exclusive to Hopi katchinas gathered as if for the annual Bean Dance, another a play camp for Plains Indians, complete with a Sioux tepee, doll accessories and a warrior figure on horseback. The third special grouping brings together ceramic and straw dolls from Brazil.

While the show can be enjoyed on all levels, and by viewers of every age, it has a gripping sub-plot. The dolls that introduce the principles of power and sorcery into the exhibition are not all good guys. What is more, these figurines, including some serving in medical bundles as cursers, and others utilized in dances performed by shamans to hurt, have real aesthetic appeal. Several are abstract in the modern sense, cleanly carved and dressed or decorated with a minimum of fuss for maximum effect. An Eskimo dance ornament, illustrating a myth of flying, is a favorite example of a gorgeous sleek form put to evil purpose.

For those who might prefer to choose favorites according to degrees of charm, there is a curing doll from Panama cleverly carved in the form of a European doctor (high hat and cutaway coat), no doubt to make sure it would work better. And there's the Aymara creature, representing the god of good fortune from the Andes.

The dolls are made of and dressed in every sort of material, reflecting on the place of their origins. Peru yields up the only pre-Columbian example of a golden doll, as well as a rare extant one made of a reed frame wrapped with yarn and woven cloth. There is a later paper doll from Mexico, a cutout "witch" who guarantees a decent tomato crop, corn husk dolls from the Northeast, tusk ivory ones from Alaska, beeswax examples from the Amazon.

Foreign trade goods were quickly incorporated into traditional forms by North American Indians, almost as soon as they were acquired. Thus we have a European china doll tucked inside a Kiowa cradle board, a Shawnee male turned out in a calico hunt coat. There is also a Potawatomi priestess in traditional dress to which has been added a mess of German silver ornaments.

There are 123 dolls in the exhibition, a rich vein of source material to be mined for clues to the

nature of American Indian cultures. But what is truly impressed upon us by this show is how dolls and play and delight are related. Although we do not always know how those dolls found in prehistoric sites functioned, we know that as early as 1585, the Indian children living near the first Virginia settlements responded to baby dolls, even those dressed as Elizabethans. Sir Walter Raleigh records that. That fact, and others that expand our knowledge of American dolls and American culture, come from an excellent catalog (\$15.95), written by Mary Jane Lenz, the curator of *The Stuff of Dreams*. Like dolls, this is a show with universal allure, a summer's plus for South Florida, not to be missed.

THE STUFF OF DREAMS: NATIVE AMERICAN DOLLS: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday (to 9 p.m. Thursday), noon-5 p.m. Sunday, through Sept. 27; the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler St., Miami. Regular admission is \$3. Call 375-1472.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 17 Board of Directors Meeting, 6 pm, Beth Read's office
July 17 Membership Meeting, 8 pm, Historical Museum of Southern Florida
August 21 August Membership Meeting

Special Note: Judi Trimble, our Artist Archeologist, has one of her photographs on display in the 1987 Royal Poinciana Fiesta's Florida Flora Art Exhibition at One Brickell Square, 801 Brickell Avenue.

Judi's photo is called "Mango Harvest". The exhibit ends on July 10.



1489 SOUTH MIAMI AVENUE

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33129



John Carruthers
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South Miami, Fl. 33157

NATIVE AMERICAN DOLLS!!!NATIVE AMERICAN DOLLS!!!

THE STUFF OF DREAMS!!!THE STUFF OF DREAMS!!!THE STUFF OF DREAMS!!!!!!!!!!!!

AIR-CONDITIONED!!!AIR-CONDITIONED!!!AIR-CONDITIONED!!!

July's meeting of the Archeological Society of Southern Florida has been changed. The new date and time is THURSDAY, JULY 16 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida where we will explore "The Stuff of Dreams: Native American Dolls," an exhibition organized by the Museum of the American Indian. (See July's newsletter for exhibit review.)

The Museum is located downtown at 101 West Flagler Street.

Metrorail will drop you off at GOVERNMENT CENTER which is only an escalator away from the Cultural Center where the Museum is located. A group will be leaving from UNIVERSITY STATION located on U.S. 1 by the University of Miami at 6:30 p.m., if you'd like company for the ride. The last train going south from downtown leaves at 9:22 p.m. so there will be plenty of time to get back.

If you are driving, there is a parking garage one block west of the Museum and free parking in lots south and in the street.

Please come! If you haven't been downtown lately, you'll be pleasantly surprised!!

!!! THURSDAY, JULY 16!!!THURSDAY, JULY 16!!!THURSDAY, JULY 16!!! 7:00 PM!!!!



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