



The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida



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Newsletter of the Society

October 2001

President: Barbara Tansey

Editor: Lisa Weier

USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor

"Remember the Arizona" was the battle cry of America during the Second World War. Today the shipwreck Arizona is a memorial to not only her crew but to all those that died on the December 7th, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

The National Park Service operates the USS Arizona Memorial. Many unique management concerns are part of the operation of this site, as it is a war grave, a memorial, an archeological site, and a tourist destination and represents many symbolic values to many people.

Jim Adams has been the Cultural Resource Program Manager at Biscayne National Park since 1996, and was formerly the Cultural Resource Manager at the USS Arizona Memorial. He will provide a slide presentation on the history of the Arizona Memorial and the current archeological investigations of this shipwreck. Preservation studies are being conducted to determine corrosion rates and address issues of leaking oil from her hull.

Jim is coauthor of The USS Arizona. The Ship, the Men, the Pearl Harbor Attack, and the Symbol that Aroused America, which is scheduled for publication in November in time for the 60th Anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Attack.

Please mark your calendars to hear Jim speak on Thursday, October 11th, 7:30 p.m., Atlantic Radio & Telephone, 2495 N.W. 35th Avenue. Call Barbara Tansey at (305) 633-9636 for directions.

Inside This Issue	
1	Jim Adams, USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor, page 1
2	Granite Carvings in Norway, page 2
3	Ongoing Digs, Conferences, Publications and News, page 3
4	Membership Information, page 4

Granite Carvings in Norway

Excerpted from September 2001 International Wildlife Magazine, editor Fred Bruemmer

One late evening in 1973, a father and son were walking home far north of the Arctic Circle, along the coast near Alta in Norway. In the soft, slanting light they noticed slopes of granite come alive with images of animals and people.

After the vegetation had been cleared, scientists discovered more than 3,000 petroglyphs - the oldest 7,000 years BP, the youngest 500 years B.C. The carvings were dated by measuring the age of shoreline displacement, and now face the modern-day problem of air pollution.

Alta is less than 200 miles from the northernmost point in Europe. Karin Tansem, former curator of the Alta Museum, said that Alta was a sacred site for more than 4,000 years, but for unknown reasons all carving stopped about 500 B.C.

As the ice began to recede in this region of Norway, called Finnmark, people arrived and lived in sod huts and tents made of fur - about 10,000 years ago. The area was full of game and fish. The people were hunter-gathers, with reindeer and elk as their main prey. They fished mainly for cod.

About 7,000 years ago the people started to record their world on granite rock. To make the glyphs, the ancient carvers used chisels, probably of fine-grained quartzite, which they struck with hammers of stone or antler, each blow chipping out one small stone flake. The artists first outlined a figure, and then slowly pecked out the entire form.

The hunting and capture scenes are the easiest to understand. One rock panel of 180 figures shows reindeer being herded into a pound or corral made of wooden stakes. This method was used extensively by the Saami (Lapps), many Siberian tribes, and some northern Indian tribes well into the twentieth century.

Another group of glyphs depicts hunters spearing swimming reindeer from open boats. This technique was the same employed by Canada's Inuit. Traditionally, the Inuit speared swimming caribou from kayaks at river sites where the caribou have migrated for untold generations.

Although the physical reality of the animals and hunting scenes seems apparent, any religious meaning remains largely inscrutable. Archaeologists at Alta speculate the site was holy and the images imbued with magic. It also appears the people of Alta were probably part of a bear cult.

The bear is a frequent motif. Bears were hunted and worshipped as gods, or as totemic clan ancestors. Echoes of bear cults and veneration persist today among many Siberian tribes, the Inuit, some northern Indians and the Ainu of northern Japan.

This is a rugged rock site where inland and coastal tribes probably met each year for thousands of years. The worshipped, traded, gossiped, courted and married. Fertility scenes with pregnant animals are common. Century after century, through 200 generations, they carved pictures of their lives and beliefs.

Each day archaeologists remove more vegetation from the rocks and discover more petroglyphs. Airborne pollution from factories in Russia and power plants in the United Kingdom may be damaging the carvings. Museum officials are experimenting with protective coverings to protect the priceless art.

A Small Piece of History...

Submitted by ASSF member Jim South

Jim South's brother, Eric, recently worked on a construction project to replace roof tile at Flagler College located in St. Augustine. Flagler College was originally constructed in 1886 as the Ponce De Leon Hotel - an important part of Henry Flagler's fabled hotel and railroad line. A couple of weeks ago, Eric found an 1890 Mercury Dime wedged between part of the original roof tiles that were being replaced. A small, but exciting find that many of us who enjoy history can certainly appreciate.

Visit the ASSF Web Page at:

<http://assf.tripod.com>. Our web page was graciously developed by Paul Robertson, Barbara Tansey's cousin, and has been up and running for months. Email the newsletter editor, Lisa Weier (contact info on back page), with comments or suggestions as our web page continues to evolve.

Plan to attend the annual

Harvest Festival

Saturday & Sunday, November 17 & 18, 2001, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the Dade County Fair & Expo Center, Coral Way at S.W. 112 Avenue, (305) 223-7060.

Admission: adults \$6, \$2 for children 5-12. ASSF will host a booth and the Everglades Outpost will bring a variety of wildlife for all to see. There will be craft booths, historical re-enactments, musical entertainment, and antique automobiles. <http://www.historical-museum.org/hmsf/harvest/harvest.htm>

Screen like a Banshee!

Please come out and help screen artifact-rich dirt rescued from the Bamboo Site, located at the Everglades Outpost just outside of Florida City. Although we've been screening for sometime, there is plenty left to sift. Any help is appreciated and no experience is necessary!

Address: 35601 S.W. 192 Ave.
Call 305-247--8000 for directions.

FAS 2002 Annual Meeting, hosted by the Central Gulf Coast Arch. Society, May 3, 4, and 5, at the Hilton in St Petersburg. Early registration rate will be held at \$35. Plans include the Underwater Conference, the Florida Arch. Council reception for the Stewards of Heritage Preservation Awards, and the workshop on grant writing to be conducted by DHR.

ASSF Christmas Dinner

This year's upcoming ASSF Christmas Dinner will be at the newly restored historic Redland Hotel in downtown Homestead, Friday, December 14, 2001. Meet for cocktails at 6:30 pm, dinner begins at 7:00 pm. This is a busy time of year so be sure to mark your calendar early!



LIST of UPCOMING ASSF SPEAKERS:

- November**...Bob Carr, Miami Circle Update
December...No Meeting
- ♣ - 2002 - ♣
- January**.....Dot Downs, Pres., Tribal Arts
February.....Open
March.....Arthur Dunkleman, Curator, Kislak Collection
April.....Potluck Dinner, Elections
May.....Open
June.....Howard Kleinberg, Old Miami

Florida Anthropological Society
FAS membership application/renewal form

YES, I want to join **FAS**. I enclose \$ _____

- INDIVIDUAL, \$25 FAMILY, \$30 INSTITUTIONAL, \$25
 SUSTAINING, \$40 OR MORE PATRON, \$100 LIFE, \$500

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

PHONE (W) _____ (H) _____

Mail to: FAS Membership
 Stacey Hopper, CGCAS
 P.O. Box 82255
 Tampa, Florida 33682

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA
ASSF membership application/renewal form

I have read and will abide by the Objectives and Code of Ethics of ASSF listed below, and I wish to apply for membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone (w) _____ (h) _____

- CHECK ONE:** New Member Renewal
CHECK ONE: Individual (\$20) Family (\$25)

Mail to: Barbara Tansey
 ASSF Membership
 2495 N.W. 35th Avenue
 Miami, FL 33142

ASSF CODE OF ETHICS:

1. Members of the Society agree to promote archaeological site preservation and conservation, to excavate only endangered sites as part of a qualified research group, to not excavate archaeological sites for the unscientific collecting of artifacts.
2. All artifacts and material recovered from Society projects are the property of the Society.

ASSF OBJECTIVE:

To provide a formal means by which individuals and institutions interested in archaeological and anthropological studies in South Florida and related areas may come together for mutual benefit.

RETURN ADDRESS:

The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida
 Barbara Tansey, President
 2495 NW 35th Avenue
 Miami, Florida 33142

FIRST CLASS



Address

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NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 11th, 7:30 p.m.,
 2495 N.W. 35th Avenue

SPEAKER: Jim Adams

OFFICERS:

Barbara Tansey, President; Jim Lord, Vice President;
 Brian Conesa, Treasurer; Pat Cervi, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Bob Carr, George Cummings, Darrell Cunningham,
 Seth Lefkow, Beth Read, Jim South, Stanley Keim,
 Gary Beiter

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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 comments, submissions or (oops!) corrections.