

## NEWSLETTER

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### EXTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PLANNED FOR SYLVESTER MANOR, SHELTER ISLAND

Dr. Steven Mrozowski, director of the Center for Cultural and Environmental History at UMass-Boston, and five graduate students spent the last two weeks of July excavating seventy five 50 by 50 centimeter test holes on the lawn of the seventeenth century Sylvester Manor of Shelter Island. From the findings of these, four promising squares were excavated: one revealed part of the milkhouse, one is felt to be a section of the original 17th century Manor house, one contained a rock feature, and another may have revealed part of the original gardens.

To Steve Mrozowski's surprise, the Manor house square contained Dutch bricks, floor tiles, and other Dutch artifacts. This will allow colleagues to reconstruct an image of the original house by comparing their discoveries with extant houses of the same period in Holland. N.Y. State historical archaeologist Paul Huey, an expert on Dutch Fort Orange (Albany), has pronounced it a "Dutch site." Since Long Island was New Netherland before it was New York this is not surprising to local scholars. This is a rare early site which has remained in the same family through time, and which includes voluminous original documents, maps, and deeds, so the research potential for prehistoric occupation, trade networks, colonial settlement and expansion, and enslaved African lifeways is enormous.

Other artifacts from this limited excavation include ceramic milk pans, pipe stems, a wax seal, gaming pieces, porcelain and white ware sherds, cow bones, and Native American pottery. SCAA's volumes on Long Island archaeology will be an invaluable source of identification of artifacts and, particularly in Vol. VI - **The Historical Archaeology of Long Island**, of comparable findings at other Island sites.

Professor Mrozowski is particularly interested in the effects of human activity on the evolution of the natural environment, so the Manor gardens and landscape are of particular interest to him. He wishes to "understand the impact of human settlement on an ecosystem" so researching Sylvester Manor could show "the impact colonization had on the environment of the new world."

Landscape archaeology of the grounds is of great interest to the Manor owner as well. Alice Fiske, widow of a direct descendant of the original Manor builder, Nathaniel Sylvester, is an avid gardener, and the Manor's exceptional gardens are a major interest of hers. A New York Times garden writer, who was instrumental in introducing Mrs. Fiske and Dr. Mrozowski, and other authors have written about the gardens.



Dr. Steve Mrozowski discusses a feature at the Sylvester Manor excavation with owner Alice Fiske.

Landscape archaeology, one of the more recent interests of historical archeology, has been carried out at the William J. Paca House in historic

Annapolis, at St. Mary's City and many sites in Maryland and Virginia, at sites in Pennsylvania, at Colonial Williamsburg, and brief studies at the William Cullen Bryant "Cedarmere" garden in Nassau County and the Mulford Farm in East Hampton. However, this will be the first such extensive research on Long Island.

Steve Mrozowski envisions the Sylvester Manor study as a five year project which will require a \$500,000. budget and will train a few dozen graduate students; probably several doctoral dissertations will result from it. The program will include experts in phytoliths, faunal analysis, and other specialties of historical archaeology from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Department of Archaeological Research and the Environmental Archaeology Research Laboratory. Local scholars who will join the research team will be culture historian and archaeologist Dr. Gaynell Stone, food historian Dr. Alice Ross, and biologist and sonar specialist Dr. Henry Moeller.



Graduate student Dave Brown points out evidence of site use to visitors at the Open House July 31st.

#### **N.Y. STATE ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK CELEBRATED BY SCAA**

On Sunday, October 4 the annual Native Technology Workshop was held at Hoyt Farm Park in Commack, 1 to 4 PM. Lithic knapper Pat Vitek and students from Dr. John Shea's class at SUNY-Stony Brook demonstrated stone knapping. Primitive technology was demonstrated, head-bands and pendants made, corn cakes cooked by interested participants.

#### **SCAA SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS**

Nassau BOCES Gifted & Talented Program sponsored a one-week full-day field school the end of June at our Blydenburgh County Park site for over 40

students, who participated in all aspects of excavation, cleaning and cataloging, resistivity testing, and field trips to related spots. Part of the time was spent at Hoyt Farm Park participating in those activities. The November 15th KIDSDAY in **Newsday** featured brief items written by some children in the program.

The Eastern Suffolk BOCES Enrichment program sponsored a similar two-week, half-day field school the last two weeks of July. This is the only professionally supervised archaeology program available to enquiring students in the region.

#### **MEETINGS**

The **Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference** has issued a Call for Papers for its April 9 - 11, 1999 Annual Meeting, to be held at Harrisburg, Pa. Registration fees and member dues are required to submit a proposed paper. Contact Liz Crowell at 703-218-1085, Fax 703-591-1305.

**Long Island Archives Conference** 1998 Annual Meeting will be held at Huntington Town Hall Friday, November 20th, 9:45AM - 2 PM. For information, contact Karen Martin, 12 Windham Dr., Huntington Station, NY 11746.

The 1999 **SHA Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology** will be held at the "Crossroads of the West," Salt Lake City, UT, January 6 - 10 at the Salt Lake Hilton. For information, Conference Chair Michael R. Polk, 801-394-0013. A number of interesting professional workshops on Industrial Archaeology, Historic Landscapes, Federal Cultural Resource Law, Glass Beads, etc. are being offered at the beginning and end of the conference, as well as special access to the nearby Snowbird Ski Resort.

The **Long Island Society, Archaeological Institute of America**, offers Dr. Ian Jenkins, Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, British Museum, speaking of "Tiresias and the Parthenon Frieze" on December 6th at 8 PM at the Hillwood Commons, C.W. Post College, LIU.

**Conference on New York State History**, planned for June 10-12 at Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY has issued a Call for Papers due by December 31, 1998. For information, contact Stefan Bielinski, 518-474-6917.

**Society for Archaeological Sciences** will hold its annual meeting in concert with the Society for American Archaeology's 64th annual meeting, to be held in Chicago, IL March 24-28.

## NEWS AND NOTES

The Calverton Navy site archaeological survey and excavation, carried out by Historical Perspectives, has been completed, and the Navy agreed to adhere to the Archaeological Standards created by the N.Y. Archaeological Council and adopted by N.Y. State (a first for Long Island?). The site could not be transferred to the Town of Riverhead until the cultural resources work was completed; the work was paid for by the Navy.

**State Archaeologist Dr. Robert Kuhn** (of the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation) reports that in future all Bureau of Historic Sites activities will be evaluated by an independent entity to ensure compliance with historic preservation regulations. Also, the State Education Department will transfer the state archaeological site file inventory to the OPRHP. NYAC Newsletter, May 1998

**ROPA - Register of Professional Archaeologists** is a new organization sponsored by the Society for Historical Archaeology, Society for American Archaeology, and possibly American Institute of Archaeology, and will replace the Society of Professional Archaeologists. Its responsibility is to define professionalism in the field, to provide a measure against which to evaluate archaeological recommendations and research, and to furnish a forum for a challenge to such recommendation and research.

It is dedicated to the continued development of archaeology as a profession, and provides explicit disciplinary procedures for review of alleged violations of the Code of Conduct and Standards of Research Performance. The need for such mechanisms, whereby professional competence can be recognized by employers and the public and be evaluated by peers, has become increasingly evident to the archaeological community and those who work with it.

About 750 archaeologists are currently recognized as Registered Professional Archaeologists (Al Cammissa and Dr. Toni Silver of Long Island among them). Registration fees are being waived until March 31, 1999 to encourage all eligible persons to apply.

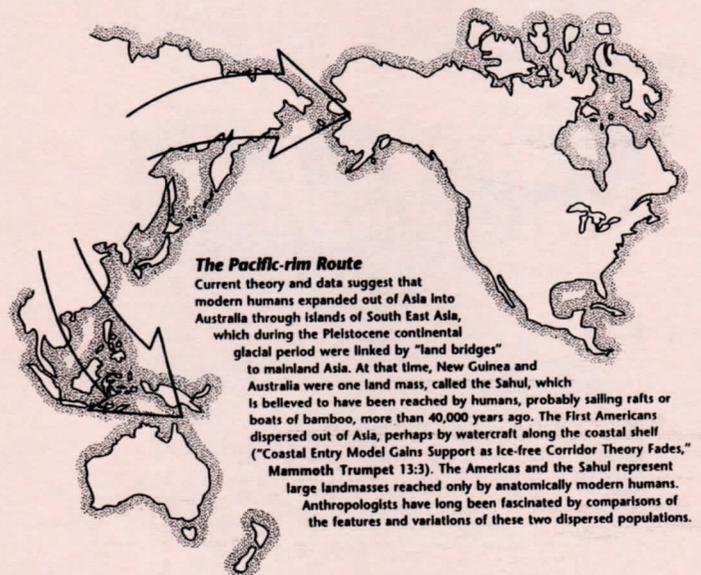
The **Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center** opened August 11th to tell the story of the Pequot people and other Native Americans from the Ice Age to the present. The \$193,000,000 state-of-the-art museum is architecturally unique, and includes large-screen theaters presenting a film on Capt. John Mason's 1637 massacre of the Pequot near Mystic.

The museum also houses an Ice Age entryway, caribou hunt diorama, a recreation of a 16th century Pequot village, a restaurant with Native American and standard food, and a research library. Archaeological exhibits show how artifacts are used to support the conjectures of the recreated scenes. It is open 7 days a week from 10 AM to 7 PM; admission is \$10. adults, \$8. seniors.

### **New World Migration Seen as Increasingly Complex**

The April 1998 meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists' papers had many scientists inferring pre-Clovis entry of peoples into the Americas, suggestions that there was considerable variation in the physical appearance of Paleoamericans, and that the peopling of the Americas was a more complex process than formerly believed.

Mitochondrial DNA research, which traces lineage through the mother, suggests the Americas peopled by Asians 20,000 to 35,000 or more years ago. Research on Y Chromosome haplotypes, inherited only from the father, shows two of five possible founder haplotypes widespread in the New World, accounting for 91% of their sample. Other research suggested migration from Africa to Asia where genetic changes occurred, and return to Africa where further genetic changes have been tracked. Emory University research using both mitochondrial DNA and Y chromosome haplotypes supports the accepted theory of northern Asian populations expanding to populate North America, following the Pacific-rim Route.



Mammoth Trumpet, Oct. 1998

## RESOURCES

**A Layperson's Guide to Historical Archaeology in Maryland: Examples from the Lost Towns of Anne Arundel Project** is available free from PACE, P.O. Box 6675, Annapolis, MD 21401. The 64 page booklet was produced after Dr. James Gibb and staff discovered teachers and student visitors to the site were as much interested in the nuts and bolts of archaeology as in the findings. He feels the booklet will be useful for teachers and for Boy Scouts working for Archaeology Merit Badges.

Two sources of information on the history of anthropology and archaeology are: **History of Anthropology Newsletter** is available for \$5. from George W. Stocking, HAN, Dept. of Anthropology, U. of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637; and **Bulletin of the History of Archaeology**, \$5. from Douglas R. Givens, Ed., BHA, Dept. of Anthropology, St. Louis Comm. College-Meramec, 11333 Big Bend Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63122.

**Archaeology Explored** is a compilation of the best of the Smithsonian AnthroNotes, edited by Ruth Selig and Marilyn London. Aimed at teachers, the essays cover Human Origins, Archaeologists Examine the Past, and Our Many Cultures, with chapter updates on current discoveries in each field. It is available for \$18. softcover or \$25. hardcover from bookstores or the Smithsonian Institution Press, 800-782-4612. Royalties support the continuing publication of AnthroNotes, a germinal contribution to archaeology in education.

Back issues of **Historical Archaeology**, Vols. 1-23 (1967-89) are now available only in electronic format on a CD-ROM. The text may be searched by word, subject, author, or title; a table of contents for each volume is listed. Order from SHA, \$99. + \$4. shipping, P.O. Box 30446, Tucson, AZ 85751.



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

### Readings in LI Archaeology & Ethnohistory:

All volumes are \$35 + \$5 postage. except Vol. III which is \$75 + tax and shipping. Vol.s I & VI are out of print.

- I. Early Papers in Long Island Archaeology
- II. The Coastal Archaeology Reader
- III. The History & Archaeology of the Montauk, 2nd Edition
- IV. Languages & Lore of the Long Island Indians
- V. The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader
- VI. The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History
- VII. The Historical Archaeology of Long Island: Part I: The Sites

### Student Series:

Booklet: A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of LI	\$5.50
Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans	\$7.50
Wall Chart: Native Technology (26X39" 3 colors)	\$13.00
Map: Native Long Island (26X39" 3 colors)	\$13.00

### Exhibit Catalogs:

The Montauk: Native Americans of Eastern LI	\$3.50
Women's Work: Native & African Americans of LI	\$3.50

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in SCAA includes 3 Newsletters per year and a 10% reduction in workshop and publication costs. All contributions are tax deductible.

Student (To age 18) \$10	Individual \$20
Family \$30	Sustaining \$50
Contributing \$100	Patron \$200
Life \$400	

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Willing to Volunteer? \_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association, P.O. Drawer 1542 Stony Brook, NY 11790