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A Search for Carolina Creamware at Cain Hoy

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

This *PastWatch* issue has started 1993 off to a great start! The current archaeological research being conducted and illustrated in the adjacent articles is testimony to your valuable support. Please join us on the bus tour to Santa Elena!

PastWatch, published four times a year, is the newsletter of the Archaeological Research Trust, SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina

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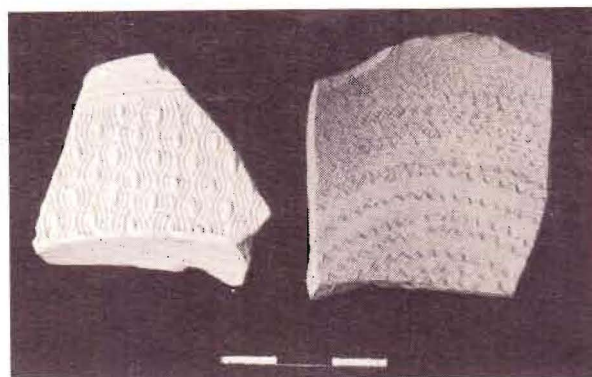
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Biscuit-fired ware made by John Bartlam.

A SEARCH FOR CAROLINA CREAMWARE AT CAIN HOY

By Stanley South

For the past twenty-five years archaeologists in South Carolina have been finding creamware sherds that are a darker shade of yellow than the usual Staffordshire creamware fragments found on British colonial sites. This darker creamware was made either by a potter named John Bartlam or his foreman, William Ellis. Though origination of this pottery has not been determined, our research has revealed locations that include a manufactory at Cain Hoy, on the banks of the Wando River, between 1765 and 1770, or by Bartlam at Charleston in 1770, or by Bartlam at Camden, between 1774 to 1781. Historic documents also revealed that William Ellis, went to Salem, North Carolina and taught their potter, Rudolph Christ, how to make the mould-made Staffordshire type creamware and stoneware. Since we did not know which of these pottery sites was responsible for the darker sherds we were finding, we called them "Carolina creamware".

Some fragments of John Bartlam's pottery were found by George Terry in Cain Hoy in the 1970s, and these have long been of interest to me and to Bradford L. Rauschenberg, Director of Research at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) at Old Salem, North Carolina. Brad recently published a documentary account of the activities of John Bartlam and his foreman, Ellis, in *The Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts*, Volume 17, No. 2.

In the spring of 1992, a joint

proposal of SCIAA, the Diachronic Research Foundation, and MESDA, for survey and planning to look for America's first creamware factory, was funded by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Through the cooperation of Bill Johnstone of Waterfront Properties, Inc., Carl Steen and Kathryn Joseph, and a number of volunteers, spent the month of March carrying out a sampling survey and a number of Bartlam's biscuit fired pottery fragments were found. These included the "Carolina creamware", tortoiseshell glazed ware, green glazed ware with a barleycorn pattern, dot diaper and basket moulded ware, cauliflower, melon, and pineapple moulded fragments. A report on this project is currently being prepared by Rauschenberg, South, and Steen.

In October, I returned to Cain Hoy, through the cooperation of the private lot owners, Les Dyches and Larry Ammann, to conduct additional investigations until mid-December. Assisting me with this project were Jim Legg, Ashley Chapman, Barbara Hiott, Dennis Graham, and from SCIAA Tommy Charles and Joe Beatty. This project was funded through MESDA by private donors, through the cooperation of SCIAA, which resulted in many more fragments of Bartlam's broken pottery being recovered. We found that he was making a wide variety of wares, including the earliest known production anywhere of what was called "blue and white" and "China" at the

(Continued on Page 6)

Director's Vista
By Bruce Rippeteau
Director and State Archaeologist

One of the finest accomplishments, I believe, of 1992, was the fundraising progress made by SCIAA's Archaeological Research Trust, led by Board Member Dr. Albert Goodyear. ART has raised \$29,693.00 for our Endowment this first year. Additionally some \$40,000 in projects, largely by Board Member Mark Newell, were close under the aegis of ART.

I appreciate this generosity in these difficult financial times in which we all find ourselves. Thank you, Al, and all the Board, and especially all of you who gave so generously towards this vision of private support. A granite plaque is being created to commemorate this profound generosity.

Another great accomplishment of last year was the November 8, 1992 barbecue arranged by Al, funded by the South Carolina Underwater Archaeological Research Council

(SCUARC), Board Chairman Roland Young, and hosted by Sue and Phil Neeley at their lodge on the South Edisto River. The best BBQ in the US was most graciously prepared by longtime supporters Dianne and Sammy Lee which fed approximately 55 of the ART Faithful.

1992 also saw our orderly expansion of the Board to a full complement of eight members. Joining us in 1992, for two year terms, were Mr. Shipp Harris, an attorney in Columbia and Mr. Antony Harper, a businessman in Greenville. Both Shipp and Tony have been associated with SCIAA for a long time, Shipp through the SC Underwater Archaeological Research Council (SCUARC), and Tony, who helped write our first Act in 1963, and has long been interested in archaeology. Welcome Aboard!

I would like to invite you to join fellow Art supporters on a chartered bus trip to Parris Island to visit the famous site of Santa

Elena. Don't miss it!

Lastly, let me encourage you to again contribute to the SCIAA **ART** Endowment in 1993. The Board in its March meeting voted to make our first awards this coming fall from the **ART** endowment. These first awards will no doubt be modest, but we are keeping the faith, and your earnings will be seen to nurture discovery and revelations of our South Carolina Archaeology.

Until the Bus Trip,



Portrait of Pedro Menendez de Aviles, founder of Santa Elena:SCIAA

Cain Hoy Continued

time, which Wedgwood later called "pearl white", and which we know today as pearlware. We now know, from Bartlam's biscuit sherds, that this ware was being made at Cain Hoy before 1770, when Bartlam moved away to begin a new potworks in Charleston.

At present, Dennis G. Graham, Jr., and Marianne Reeves are assisting me with the research on the Bartlam materials recovered from the Cain Hoy site. We have found that the Cain Hoy

site was a domestic household from which large quantities of Bartlam's pottery were being discarded along with many other mid-eighteenth century artifacts. Where Bartlam's kiln and factory were located is still unknown. We hope to return some day to continue the search for the ruins of his kiln and we hope to discover the waster dump, which holds many more secrets yet to be revealed about America's first creamware. This research is funded by private dona-

tions to MESDA through Brad Rauschenberg, but this will soon be expended. More donations from the private sector are needed to continue this research.

You can send donations to Bradford L. Rauschenberg, Director of Research, MESDA, Box 10310, Old Salem, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108, or to the ART, at SCIAA, 1321 Pendleton Street, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C. 29208.