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Archaeology and Education at Santa Elena 1992

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STATUS OF THE 1992 INAUGURAL YEAR ENDOVMENT FUND DRIVE
Albert C. Goodyear

The financial goal for the first year's efforts at raising an endowed fund for the ART was $100,000. During April and May of this year, some 1,130 letters were mailed out to prospective donors soliciting donations to the Endowment Fund.

A total of 65 people responded to this letter giving a total of $22,460. Prior to the letter campaign, 26 people had donated $5,491. Thus, the total which has been contributed to the Endowment Fund to date is $27,951 by 87 people and organizations. Remember that the Endowment Fund is the account where donations contribute to a principal sum which is never spent. Only the interest generated is expended. A single gift to this fund no matter how small continues to generate interest income for generations to come.

Only three weeks are left in the ART Endowment Fund Drive for this year. Remember that all those individuals, organizations and businesses that give to the Endowment Fund in the 1992 inaugural year will have their names placed on a charter that will hang permanently in the SCIAA. For those desiring to contribute to the 1992 Endowment Fund drive, please see the donor schedule listed within this newsletter and mail the check before December.

Archaeology and Education at Santa Elena 1992
By Stanley South

An archaeological expedition focused on archaeology and education at the sixteenth century Spanish capital of Santa Elena on Parris Island, South Carolina and was carried out from April 6th through May 22nd.

The project was partly funded by the Trust and directed by Stanley South, archaeologist with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina, and was sponsored by the Institute and the Columbian Quincentennial Commission of South Carolina, Chester DePratter, Chairman, through the cooperation of the United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Parris Island.

The goal of the project was to locate additional ruins of houses standing in Santa Elena over four hundred years ago (1566-1587). Two thousand school children and other visitors were given a tour of the site by Christopher Judge, Tommy Charles and Chester DePratter and were able to watch archaeology underway. The educational aspect of the project was designed to open the doorway to the past toward creating a better understanding of the Spanish presence in the New World in the sixteenth century.

Assisting Stan South were archaeologists Chester DePratter, Carl Steen, Tommy Charles, Christopher Judge, and Ashley Chapman. Also invaluable to the success of the project were many volunteers who gave freely of their time, some for many weeks. One volunteer, a professional archaeologist from the Ministry of Education and Culture for the Government of Uruguay. Other volunteers, professional archaeologists, and inexperienced lay persons, were from South Carolina, Indiana, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, New York, and Tennessee.

During the 1991 expedition, postholes for a Spanish structure were located. It was conjectured that additional postholes should be found in the adjacent area when it was excavated in 1992. This prediction proved accurate, revealing the ruins of a two-story building plastered with oystershell mortar, measuring 24 feet square. Many Spanish artifacts from broken pottery, to musket balls to triggers from Spanish arquebuses, were located.

(Continued on page 8)
Santa Elena Continued

One family, passing through the area on a sailboat, were so impressed that they donated $5,000 to help with the analysis of the artifacts being recovered. Another visitor, on a bus tour from Columbia, was also so impressed that she also wrote a check for $5,000 to the Archaeological Research Trust to help with the analysis of the Santa Elena artifacts this summer and fall. It is through donations to the Columbian Quincentennial Commission, The Archaeological Research Trust, or to the Santa Elena Project at the Institute, that continued progress toward revealing the secrets of the soil at Santa Elena has to offer through the doorway of archaeology.

Those interested in reading a summary about the archaeology at Santa Elena during the past thirteen years can purchase the book written for the layman entitled, *Archaeology at Santa Elena: Doorway to the Past*, by Stanley South, which sells for $5.00 at the Institute.

SCIAA Support Schedule

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*All Gifts are Tax Deductible*

Inaugural Year Continued

As much as we need your financial contribution to make this a success, equally so, we wish to have your name added to this charter as one who is standing with us. On behalf of the ART and as the Chair of the 1992 Endowment Fund Drive, I wish to thank everyone who has made a donation thus far and say that I am impressed with the generosity of so many people and organizations who believe that archaeology in South Carolina will be truly served by a privately funded Archaeological Research Trust.