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SCIAA Welcomes New Director
Dr. Charles Cobb
By Nena Powell Rice

In 2006, a national search was conducted for a new director at SCIAA. After a series of interviews last fall, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Mary Ann Fitzpatrick, selected Dr. Charles Cobb. Dr. Cobb has been on the faculty and recently Chair of the Department of Anthropology at SUNY Binghamton for the past 17 years. Dr. Cobb started his new position as Director of SCIAA on July 1, 2007.

Under Charlie’s direction and leadership the Institute should grow and prosper with strong support from the university, ART Board, and the archaeological community. Charlie will not only serve as the Director of SCIAA but will also start teaching as a Professor in the PhD program in the Department of Anthropology at USC in the fall.

On behalf of the staff of SCIAA and the university, we welcome Charlie and his wife, Terri Price, to South Carolina and look forward to many positive changes in the years to come. Please stop by the Institute and introduce yourself to Charlie.

Because of rising costs and increased demand, it is necessary to update our mailing list to include only those who are interested in receiving Legacy. We are also seeking donations from the readership to continue to publication of Legacy. Please send the enclosed envelope to me indicating whether you want to receive Legacy and contributions will be appreciated. Thank you so much for your support. Nena Rice (nrice@sc.edu).
It is with considerable humility and pride that I assume the reins as the Director of SCIAA effective July 1. Although many in the readership may know my work or me, there may still be many who do not, so a brief bio is in order. To go way back in time, I’m not sure what really pushed me in this direction, but my first exciting encounter with southeastern archaeology occurred in northeastern Arkansas. There, my Cub Scout troop visited the Hampson Museum, at that time a privately owned facility that housed a fabulous collection from the Nodena site, a late Mississippian village. Not too many years after that my family lived about six years overseas because of my father’s career in the U.S. Air Force. The opportunity as a teenager to visit such places as Pompeii and Rome certainly sparked my interest in the past, leading me to pursue an undergraduate degree in anthropology at the University of Arizona.

Following graduation, I spent nearly a year back in my home state working for the Arkansas Archeological Survey, a move which cemented my decision to pursue a career in archaeology (despite working at Toltec Mounds outside of Little Rock during the infamous summer of 1980, when temperatures surged above 100 degrees for about 30 days straight. I still don’t think I’ve properly re-hydrated). I then moved on to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where my interests focused on Mississippian-period archaeology. After receiving my PhD, I worked for New South and then Garrow & Associates, both Atlanta firms, for about 18 months.

It’s during this period that I directed the Phase II archaeology related to the replacement of the Mt. Pleasant Bridge in Charleston. This was soon after hurricane Hugo struck, and I still remember my astonishment at seeing church spires scattered on the ground. Upon moving to South Carolina this June, I had my first chance to see the soaring Ravenel Bridge that now connects Charleston and Mt. Pleasant. While there may be those who miss the old bridge, I must confess that my healthy fear of heights made for some anxious moments over the water on what I remember as a very narrow and rickety structure.

The allure of a career in academia led me to the State University of New York at Binghamton, where I’ve been between 1990 and my return to the South this year. Despite (or because of) living in a climate where snowfall is measured in feet rather than inches, I continued to pursue my Mississippian studies, primarily in southern Illinois. The vigorous Mississippian cultures and sizable mound sites in that portion of the state reflect its very long-term southern connections. The
southernmost counties of Illinois attempted to secede to the South on the eve of the Civil War and today catfish is a regular feature on the Friday menu of some of the McDonalds restaurants in the region. My ongoing research involves a study of health and warfare among the dense Mississippian populations in the area around Nashville, Tennessee. I also have a strong interest in Native Americans during the colonial period, and it is the latter that I particularly plan to emphasize as a key element of my South Carolina research.

But enough about me. I will highlight a few current issues at SCIAA and then use future releases of the Legacy magazine to discuss some of our future directions in more detail. In short, though, I would note that I plan to use a post-doctoral position at SCIAA to bring in young scholars who will push our research into directions that we currently don’t regularly pursue. We also will be exploring ways to enhance our public and professional outreach missions. In this vein, I would note that the recent visit of Japanese scholars organized by Chris Gillam and described in this issue of Legacy is just one example of the diverse ways in which SCIAA works with the larger archaeological community.

Dealing with the present, on behalf of SCIAA, I would like to bid Thorne Compton the best of wishes on his “retirement” (he will still be busy working for the university in teaching and other capacities). His tenure as Interim Director was an incredibly important stabilizing influence on the Institute. Moreover, he devoted an enormous amount of time setting the stage for a prosperous future. As just a few highlights, he has supervised the groundwork necessary for our move to another building, and along with Nena Powell Rice he initiated an inventory of our sizable library, which will eventually be catalogued with the university library system. We can only hope that Thorne continues to have a presence at the Institute—following his sabbatical, of course.

In other personnel news, Adam King will be joining SCIAA as a researcher effective August 15. Long familiar to everyone by virtue of his work with the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program, as well as at Etowah, Georgia, this is perhaps more of a transfer than a hire—in particular because he will continue his important studies on the Savannah River Mississippian chiefdoms. But he will also have teaching duties with the Department of Anthropology as we look to build more bridges with the department. We also look forward to the volume on South Carolina archaeology that he will be editing. The bolstering of our research profile through the addition of Adam is just the latest in a series of moves that our Dean, Mary Ann Fitzpatrick, has made in her vigorous support of SCIAA.

Speaking of supporters, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all within South Carolina who have been so helpful in my move to the Director position. Everyone at the university has also been extremely encouraging. In particular, I am grateful to the Archaeological Research Trust Board of Trustees who has done so much to enthusiastically welcome me. I look forward to working with ART Board Members and donors, professional and avocational archaeologists, and all South Carolinians to promote the rich heritage of this state.

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Russian Scholar to Visit SCIAA in October

By J. Christopher Gillam

Dr. Andrei V. Tabarev of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, Russia, will visit SCIAA as part of a joint research project on the Russian Far East with Chris Gillam (SRARP) on October 22-31, 2007. In addition to their joint research, Dr. Tabarev will be introduced to the prehistory and history of South Carolina by visiting the Allendale Chert Quarries, Seewee Shell Ring, and Historic Charleston. Dr. Tabarev will give two lectures at USC during his stay (TBA). Arrangements are currently being made for the lectures. Check the SCIAA website for updates in the weeks ahead.

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Andrei Tabarev and Chris Gillam at Kinkaku-ji, Temple of the Golden Pavillion, in Kyoto, Japan; Chris and Andrei were invited to present their joint research on early cultures of the Far East at Kokugakuen University, Tokyo, in 2006. (Photo courtesy Chris Gillam)
Some 130 years ago, Edward S. Morse, an American zoologist, led the first archaeological excavation in Japan at the shell mounds of Omori. Morse noticed the Omori shell mound when he was traveling by train and had had prior experience excavating shell middens in Maine. He named the pottery he found in Japan “cord-marked,” which was later translated to Japanese as, Jomon. Since then, the archaeology of the Jomon period was first developed by studying such shell mound sites, as there were numerous shell mounds known in the vicinity of Tokyo. Today, it is speculated that around 6,000 shell mounds remain in the Japanese Archipelago.

Though early Japanese archaeology had a close relationship with North American archaeology, Japanese archeologists today know little about the Archaic cultures and early pottery of North America. As a part of a JSPS Grant-in-Aid Scientific Research, “Historical and Social Meanings of Pottery Emergence in Prehistory”, Dr. Tatsuo Kobayashi (Kokugakuin University) and three other Japanese researchers, Toru Miyao, Nobuo Miyachi, and the author from Niigata, visited South Carolina in February of 2007.

Our first concern during our visit to South Carolina was Late Archaic fiber-tempered pottery. Fiber tempering is also a typical feature of Jomon pottery in its early stages of development. East Asia, including Far East Russia, is now considered to be the area where the first pottery appeared. There are many sites that belong to the Incipient Jomon period in Niigata as well. Within the six stages of Jomon period pottery (Incipient, Earliest, Early, Middle, Late and Final), plant-based fiber-tempered pottery was most common in the Earliest and Early stages. Some of the Incipient Jomon pots are also tempered with very thin fiber, possibly animal hair, though not yet identified.

The Late Archaic sherds we saw at the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina (SCIAA-USC), looked very much like fiber-tempered pottery from Japan. If small fragments from these distant regions were mixed, it would be very hard to distinguish them. Most fiber-tempered vessels of the Earliest Jomon have conical bases and are considered to have been stuck into the ash beds of fireplaces, similar to the mixture of plant fiber to temper is not yet well explained. Most of the vessels are deep bowls and all of them are fiber-tempered; we do not later cord-marked pottery of the Woodland period in South Carolina. Even the oldest Jomon pots have soot on their outside surfaces from cooking, and we have never imagined the use of boiling stones or clay balls as documented in the Late Archaic of the Southeast. The mixture of plant fiber to temper is not yet well explained. Most of the vessels are deep bowls and all of them are fiber-tempered; we do not
know what the advantage of making porous cooking pots was at this time.

Our other interest while visiting South Carolina was the coastal shell ring sites that such early pottery occurs on. In Japan, the earliest shell middens date back to 10,000 B.C. These sites were formed at the periphery of settlements. Large, typical shell mounds appear after the Middle Jomon. As the pit-houses in the settlements were placed in a circle, shell mounds often formed a horseshoe shape. Kasori Shell mound, one of the largest, consists of two mounds making a figure-8 shape, and each has a diameter of more than 400 feet. Analyses of conchoids shows variation in shell gathering seasons and differences in the composition of species gathered also gives insight into territoriality. Since early times of our research history, so-called “rich” shell mounds and “poor” shell mounds were known; the former yield a considerable amount of artifacts, while the latter contain few artifacts other than shell. It is interpreted that the rich mounds were the result of ordinary settlement activities, and the poor ones were formed by shellfish processing activities; that is, boiling the shell to extract the interior meat and then transporting the product to inland settlements.

Before the visit, what we expected of shell rings of the Atlantic coast was the possibility that they might look like the “poor” shell mounds of the Jomon. At the first glance of Fig Island, we knew that our expectations were wrong. Structures made by piling up just shell is not known in Japan. They are really mysterious features. Yet for the Japanese archaeologists who have been, for better or worse, accustomed to large area excavations of two to three acres, we had an impression that excavating one-sixth of a shell ring may totally change present interpretations of these sites in the Southeast United States. South Carolina and Japan are so distant that we cannot seek direct parallels, but there are many research topics in common and many aspects could be learned from each side. It was also interesting to learn about the system of archaeological site management in the US. We admire the researchers trying to investigate and preserve these features in not so favorable conditions, both environmentally and in terms of budget.

We would like to thank the many people providing us with opportunities to observe finds and to visit sites, especially our friends and colleagues, Chris Gillam (SRARP-SCIAA-USC) and Becky Saunders (Louisiana State University’s Museum of Natural History). Likewise, Thorne Compton and many staff members at SCIAA worked behind the scenes to make our visit more productive and they have our sincere thanks. In particular, Sharon Pekrul and Tammy Herron made artifact collections from SCIAA and the SRARP available for us to examine. Gordon Smith and the staff of the R. L. Walker Institute of International and Area Studies (USC) hosted a welcome reception that was much appreciated by us. Jonathan Leader and Holly Gillam (SC DNR) also hosted a luncheon for us at SCIAA. Sean Taylor and staff of the SC Dept. of Natural Resources provided access to the Fig Island site and an interpretation of the site’s history and context. David Henderson, Community Services Associates, led a tour of the Sea Pines Shell Ring on Hilton Head Island. Bob Morgan of the USDA Forest Service provided a tour and interpretation of the Seewee Site at Francis Marion National Forest that concluded our fieldtrip along the South Carolina coast.
There Is Much to Learn from Distant Shores, Cultures, and Colleagues
By J. Christopher Gillam

Like the greater field of North American archaeology, researchers at SCIAA have witnessed many changes in method, theory, and interpretation in recent decades. On the horizon, I believe the rise of global perspectives on the past will be one of the more promising developments. There is much to be learned from distant shores, cultures, and colleagues. Cross-cultural comparisons and international collaborations will lead to a better understanding of past cultures, our ultimate goal as archaeologists.

So it was with great pleasure in February of 2007, that SCIAA/USC, and the many other local, state, and federal agencies involved, hosted the visit of Dr. Kobayashi-sensai, Nishida-san, Miyao-san, and Miyauchi-san from Japan. Along with Becky Saunders of the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Sciences, we explored the early pottery and shell mound sites of native cultures here in South Carolina. During the visit, we examined pottery and other artifacts from coastal shell ring and interior sites dating to approximately 3,200 to 4,200 years before present and toured several shell ring archaeological sites along the South Carolina coast including the Sewee, Fig Island, and Spanish Mount Shell Ring sites in Charleston County and the Sea Pines Shell Ring site in Beaufort County.

The greatest benefit of international collaboration is that learning is never one-sided. I am certain that I learned as much about Jomon period archaeology in Japan, as well as gained a fresh perspective on our own prehistory from our discussions, as our friends and colleagues from Tokyo and Niigata did about the Late Archaic here in South Carolina. The idea that many of these shell ring sites may be simple extraction locations where shellfish were processed is an intriguing hypothesis. The large shell mound and linked hexagonal rings at Fig Island may be an exception, as noted in Nishida-san’s article. (Pages 4-5)

The circular (or hexagonal) rings of shell may therefore be a reflection of how space is organized for roasting the oysters, rather than being of some great symbolic meaning related to the cosmology of these ancient folk. I think it is likely related to both of these cultural systems, as organized space and cosmology are often found to correlate in prehistory, as well as modern cultures. It is clear that the ritual feasting hypothesis common in the Southeast needs greater scrutiny in future research. With certainty, our discussions highlighted the dire need for additional research at these sites.

A sense of urgency regarding research at coastal sites is furthered by the fact that many of them will be submerged in the decades ahead due to global warming and the corresponding rise of sea levels worldwide. This fact should be particularly helpful in seeking grants from funding agencies, such as National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society, that are particularly keen on playing a role in site preservation and salvage archaeology. Regardless of the source of funding, I hope that future research will involve not only new hypotheses, but new colleagues from abroad to strengthen our breadth of interpretation.

The site visits in February 2007 were coordinated with the aid of the SC Department of Natural Resources, USDA. Forest Service, Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP), and Hilton Head Island’s Sea Pines Plantation and Community Services Associates, Inc. I would like to reiterate Nishida-san’s thanks to everyone involved that made their visit such a great success!

We hope that our friends from Japan will return to contribute to a greater understanding of the Southeast’s past as many questions remain open: Do southeastern shell rings reflect cosmology? Territory? Kinship? Are the shell rings really hexagons, or is this a unique feature at Fig Island? Are shell rings simply shell processing sites? Are interior shell middens and Stalling’s Island related to coastal sites? Are interior sites territorial boundaries? There are many...
At dawn on the morning of July 12, 1780, American militia surprised British forces camped at James Williamson’s plantation, located along the South Fork of Fishing Creek in modern day York County, South Carolina. In a short, sharp fight, the Americans, under the combined command of William Bratton, Andrew Neel, and Edward Lacey, and numbering between 150 to 300 men, dispersed 35 British Legion, 20 New York Volunteers, and 50 Loyalist militia commanded by Captain Christian Huck. Thirty British were killed and 35 more were wounded, while the Americans lost only one man. The victory, sometimes referred to as “Huck’s Defeat” or “Williamson’s plantation,” was significant for its morale boost to the American Revolutionary cause, coming close after the May 1780 surrender of the Continental Army in Charleston. On March 22, 2006, the York County Culture and Heritage Museum awarded the Military Sites Program of SCIAA a contract to search for the Williamson’s plantation battlefield.

Scoggins’ research led him to the conclusion that the battlefield was somewhere within a 25-acre area in the southeastern portion of the CHM property, but also that it extended to the south, beyond the Brattonsville property on land privately owned. Two historic maps appeared to show the Williamson house near a spring. There are in fact, several modern springs along the South Fork of Fishing Creek but all were concentrated within the 25-acre area defined by Scoggins. The SCIAA team also had information, via Camden attorney, Charles Baxley, from an anonymous relic collector. The collector provided a map of where he had found musket balls.

Museum historian, Michael Scoggins, recently completed a detailed account of the battle titled, “The Day it Rained Militia,” and SCIAA archaeologists Steven D. Smith, James B. Legg, and Frank King, with the assistance of metal detector specialist Spencer Barker, used Scoggins’ excellent work as the basis for their search.

Fig. 1: Battlefield map drawn by D.G. Stinson from information supplied by Napoleon Bonaparte Bratton, 26 March 1876. (Lyman C. Draper papers, courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society).

Bratton’s historic home is now part of Historic Brattonsville, a 775-acre living history center under the Culture and Heritage Museum’s (CHM) administration. The park includes numerous historic and reconstructed buildings including Bratton’s original plantation house.

See BATTLEFIELD, Page 8
balls 200 yards east of Bratton’s house. That particular location is now a lightly wooded area used as picnic grounds and a reconstructed school house. Relic collector information can be very useful and as that particular information loosely fit the historic accounts, the area was considered another high priority search area.

The SCIAA team searched the relic collector’s area first and was surprised to immediately come across large musket balls reminiscent of the diameter of balls fired from British Brown Bess muskets. However, as more and more balls were recovered, the team became suspicious. There were too many finds from an area known to have been heavily collected in the past, and some balls did not have the heavy white patina usually found on balls buried in the ground for some 200 years. That was when it dawned on the team that Historic Brattonsville was also the site location for the movie, The Patriot, and that the balls were in an area that movie reenactors had camped. Once they were cleaned and measured it was clear that all of the balls were modern. Interestingly, the team recovered a line of dropped balls, indicating the spot where reenactors had stood in a line and fired at a target, perhaps for sound testing, close-up shots, or out of just plain boredom.

Back on the ground, the team searched the deep woods farther to the east of the reenactor camp and eventually located a concentration of 16 fired rifle balls, and one badly chewed musket ball from a British Land Pattern musket. These 17 balls strongly suggested that the site was at least part of the battlefield, the balls representing American militia firing at the British in camp. In addition, the artifact concentration included a British halfpenny, a brass trigger guard fragment, six pewter spoon fragments, eight melted pewter fragments, six shoe buckles and fragments, a knee buckle, seven wrought nails, two wrought horseshoes, five 18th century buttons, and other iron artifacts. Given the large amount of domestic material the team speculated that this area contained one or more of Williamson’s plantation outbuildings, a finding consistent with the historic descriptions of the battlefield.

The location of the single British musket ball, upslope from most of the rifle balls, led the team to speculate that they had found the Loyalist campsite, but that Williamson’s main plantation house was farther upslope (south) of the...
site, off the Museum’s property. If the British regulars were camped around the main house, perhaps more dropped Brown Bess musket balls and evidence of Williamson’s house would be found just off the property. Much of it in this area was now a modern road, but there was thought to still be the possibility of additional battlefield finds.

In December 2006, the museum was able to obtain permission to search the area just south of their property. The results of this effort were discouraging on one hand but exciting on the other. The team was able to search a total of about five additional acres. No additional evidence of the battle or Williamson’s plantation was found. Unfortunately, the entire search area was heavily disturbed by erosion and heavy mechanical equipment. Nevertheless, it did not appear that a colonial occupation was there. In fact, they found no evidence of 18th century material. Regardless of the disturbances, some 18th century pottery sherds or other evidence of a colonial period occupation would have been found if the site extended in that direction.

At the same time, the underbrush at the original battlefield site had died back significantly, allowing the team better search conditions there. More work in that area yielded an additional seven rifle balls and a carbine or pistol ball. In total, the team recovered 25 balls out of a total 96 metal finds. Or, to put it another way, 26% of our finds were lead balls, all but two being rifle balls. There is now no doubt that this site is the Williamson’s plantation battlefield.

Based on the work to date, two possibilities exist regarding the low number of musket balls and the lack of finds to the south of the site. Either what was found is all that is left of the battlefield and the finds are the result of the Americans surprise being so great that the British were routed without returning fire, or, that the battlefield still extends to the south, but there is a gap between this site and another battlefield concentration farther south.

Of course the team realizes that it was not the first to discover the Williamson’s plantation battlefield since unknown private relic collectors probably knew its location long before the team’s find. In fact, their finds may be at least part of the reason for the lack of British musket balls in SCIAA’s collection. Nevertheless, the CHM now knows the location and has obtained a collection of artifacts from the battle. The museum can now begin to preserve and interpret the battlefield for public benefit.
Research in the South Carolina Upstate

By Tommy Charles, Christopher Clement, and Terry Ferguson

Excavations at site 38PN35 in Pickens County, South Carolina, have been completed for the summer. Fieldwork began April 16 and continued through June 13, 2007. Because the site is located on a horse farm where the Furman Equestrian Team trains, it was necessary to erect an electric fence around the area where excavations would be conducted to prevent grazing horses from injuring themselves by falling into one of our open excavations. We were fortunate that the landowners, Mike and Jodi Robertson, and Jesse Robertson supplied the materials for the fence, saving the project time and money. Jesse Robertson used his backhoe to push the fence posts into the ground, and with Jeff Catlin, Roger Lindsay, and Mike Bramlett assisting they had the fence up and working in less than a day (Fig. 1).

Tommy Charles had foot surgery and was unable to take part in this field season, but Christopher Clement agreed to take charge of the fieldwork with assistance from Wofford College’s Dr. Terry Ferguson as his teaching schedule permitted. Their initial efforts were to clean the previous excavated areas and reexamine a stone feature that was partially excavated in the fall of 2006. The feature is over two meters below the surface and has produced a radiocarbon date of 10,000-10,200 years before present (Fig. 2). Debitage was recovered from the level associated with this feature in a one by two-meter unit excavated in the fall of 2006. A backhoe trench cut into a terrace edge near the feature this spring allowed for another one by two-meter unit to be safely excavated adjacent to the 2006 unit. As with the previous unit, debitage was recovered from the level containing the feature. Neither unit produced any diagnostic artifacts.

Further geoarchaeological investigations consisting of auger cores, collection of sediment samples from profiles, and associated measurements of magnetic susceptibility were conducted. Additional ground penetrating radar data was also collected. All new data from the geoarchaeological investigations are currently being analyzed at Wofford College.

The backhoe trench and geoarchaeological investigations allowed for the clarification of stratigraphic relationships between alluvial terraces on the site and the excavation into Pleistocene age deposits around two and a half meters below surface. There were no indications of cultural activity below the 10,200 to 10,500 levels.

Plans are to eventually expand investigations of the deep cultural deposits, but the
equally important Woodland and Archaic cultural components situated above must be painstakingly excavated. This takes time, and because of the huge volume of dirt that must be excavated in order to reach the two plus meter depth safely, no attempt was made to accomplish that this season. Instead, efforts were directed toward excavating shovel tests across the site and the removal of the plow zone from selected areas to find the areas having the greatest research potential and to pursue and map additional segments of the previously discovered palisade (Fig. 3).

These procedures resulted in the discovery of numerous additional postholes, some of which were associated with the palisade and others with potential structures. Several pit features were also located and mapped.

Five charcoal samples were collected from various features and sent to Beta Analytic, Inc., for dating. Two charcoal samples previously collected from site 38GR1 were also sent for analysis. Results are expected in July 2007. This will bring the number of dates associated with 38GR1 and 38PN35 to over 30.

Wofford College students continued the cleaning, sorting, cataloging, and the preliminary analysis of artifacts recovered to date from 38GR1 and 38PN35 (Fig. 4). This work should continue in the fall.

Dr. David Moore, of Western Carolina University, is currently assembling a prehistoric pottery type collection consisting of wares obtained from sites 38GR1 and 38PN35 and has agreed to serve as a ceramics consultant. We are fortunate to be able to draw upon Dr. Moore’s wealth of experience with the prehistoric pottery types that are commonly found in the Southern Appalachian Mountains and that we are now finding on Upstate South Carolina sites. Also ongoing is the analysis of numerous samples of botanical materials obtained from excavated features at sites 38GR1 and 38PN35. The analysis is being conducted by Dr. Gary Crites at the University of Tennessee. As with Dr. Moore, we feel very fortunate to have Dr. Crites’ experience with the plants and subsistence patterns of the Southeast to draw upon. We expect to have preliminary results for both the ceramics and botanical materials by late summer or fall of 2007.

Tentative plans are to return to 38PN35 in the fall of 2007 or the spring of 2008 if funding can be obtained for further study. If this can be accomplished, our objective will be to open an area large enough to safely excavate to the two-plus meter depth and attempt to identify the culture associated with the 10,000-10,200 years old stone feature.

As for the previous three years, our continuing research into the prehistory of the Upstate would not be possible without the time and efforts of our tireless volunteers and the support of the Archaeological Research Trust and several private donors. We are deeply indebted to one and all for their continuing support.
Shovel Testing Around the Santa Elena Kiln
By Chester DePratter

During the week of July 10, 2007, Jim Legg and I worked around the Spanish pottery kiln at the Santa Elena site on Parris Island. As noted in the last issue of Legacy (Vol. 11, No. 1: 6-7), I found that kiln 14 years ago, and we are now in the final stages of excavating in the area surrounding it. On this one week project we were digging shovel tests to determine whether there were kiln-related features beneath what had been the old 7th tee. That former tee was removed (with our approval) by the golf course maintenance staff in January 2007. We were interested in what might be beneath it, because it was adjacent to the Spanish structure that we uncovered in fall, 2006, and it was also the last area around the kiln that we had not been able to investigate by shovel testing.

Jim and I excavated a total of 29 shovel tests to depths ranging between 1.1 and 3.4 feet (Fig. 1). We were assisted in this work by Kalla DePratter, age 14 (Fig. 2), who proved to be an able field assistant. The contents of these tests allowed us to determine the full extent of the Spanish artifact scatter around the kiln; it now appears that this scatter covers an area measuring 100 X 240 feet (30.5 X 73.1 meters). This was a larger than expected debris field for a kiln that I believe was used only briefly, so I turned to the documents to see if there were descriptions of other activities that might have taken place in the area subsequently occupied by the kiln and the potter.

In a quick check of the records, I found three possibilities for activities that took place outside the town proper (the kiln is located about 250 feet from the west edge of town). The first occurred in 1573 and involved the acting governor of Santa Elena, Juan de la Vandera. While governor, he developed an attraction for a married woman of the town, and in order to facilitate the affair, he sent her husband on a mission to Spain. The Spanish accounts (Connor 1925:87) say “…he left the fort and built a blockhouse near the houses of the settlement, and took the said woman to the said house.” Later Vandera cast this woman aside and “went off with a woman neighbor of his.” It is possible that Vandera’s blockhouse was located on
Another document (Connor 1925:267) describes the resettlement of Santa Elena in 1577 after a one-year abandonment. Then, Governor Pedro Menendez Marques, brought a prefabricated fort with him from St. Augustine and erected it within several days of his arrival. To prevent the Indians from approaching too closely, he built seven “outposts” in an arc around the fort spaced 25 to 50 paces apart. Perhaps one of these outposts was located on the kiln site, though there is no extant map to show just where the governor built his outposts.

A third possibility is that there were buildings on the kiln site that related to agricultural activities in the town. Each farmer was supposed to receive about 176 acres of farmland and 10 acres for a garden plot (Hoffman and Lyon 1976:Appendix). In our shovel testing around the periphery of the town, we found a scatter of Spanish artifacts that extended outward more than 150 yards from the edge of town, and is likely that this scatter relates to the presence of barns, farm sheds, corrals, agricultural fields, and gardens located around the town perimeter (DePratter and South 1995:47-49). The artifact scatter we see around the kiln may, in part, derive from such farming activities. There may be additional possibilities mentioned in the records, and I will continue to explore all options as I prepare the final report.

In the coming months, Jim Legg, Stan South, and I will be producing the final report on the kiln and our more than 200 hundred shovel tests and 5,000 square feet of excavations around it. We look forward to moving on to other parts of the Santa Elena site.

References Cited


Charleston Foodways: The Documentary and Archaeological Record

By Lisa Hudgins

Archaeology provides a tantalizing glimpse at the foodways and social customs of any culture. Excavations can reveal floral and faunal remains, as well as the utensils and accoutrements of dining at any socio-economic level. However, archaeologists often have to look at documentary evidence for validation of the artifact record. Diaries, newspapers, probate records, even shipping documents, help to flesh out the story being whispered from the ground. As part of a broader study of Charleston ceramics in the 18th century, I looked at the documentary and archaeological evidence of Charleston eating and drinking habits, and at the types of wares that might have been used to support those habits. Included here is an overview of the findings with specific interest in the vessels used in homes with higher socio-economic status.

Dining, Charleston Style

The Charleston diet was quite varied. It would have included fruits and vegetables, meat (both wild and domestic), fish, poultry, turtles, and grain products (corn or grits, rice, breads, cereals, etc.). Vegetables were served fresh, boiled, baked, or preserved as pickles or sauces. Fruit, including plums, oranges, and "nectrons," were pickled, and were often preserved, except during the seasonal slaughtering.

Archaeological evidence and cooking guides for the period indicate that most of the animal was utilized, with little opportunity for waste products. Theoretically, the upper classes may have been more likely to utilize whole animals, which they would have used from their own herd. By contrast, poorer homes who would be purchasing meat from local butchers, would use only certain cuts of meat. A comprehensive look at the archaeological collections from Charleston households seems to support this theory (Zierden, SHA:33(3) 1991).

Recipe books also point to food practices of the era. Hanna Glasse’s Art of Cookery (1747), detailed recipes for such delicacies as “Calf’s Head Surprise,” “Pigeon Trans-mogrified,” “Roasted Ox-Cheek,” and “Beef Tongue Fricasay.” Preservation of food was important, and numerous recipes were listed for...
pickling, drying, and salting. (One recipe, designed for sea captains, provided instructions for making catsup, which would last for 20 years.) Root vegetables, peas, beans, squash, and pumpkins were stored for use in wintertime. Commercially packaged foods, both local and imported, supplemented household gardens. Imported luxury items were also used in some quantity, as we see in numerous advertisements in the South Carolina Gazette for coffee, Bohia Tea, and chocolate.

Archaeological remains from Charleston sites help to confirm diet patterns, revealing deposits of corncobs and seeds, and the bones of cow, chicken, and sheep. Remnants of coarse earthenware milk pans and crockery found in excavations point to dairying activities. Likewise, the presence of tea accoutrements confirms the use of tea or coffee in the household. It seems likely that the Charlestonian and his family attended to the necessary social requirements of a planter or merchant class household, providing distinguished guests with afternoon refreshment as the occasion warranted.

**The Dressed Table**

While what was considered “essential” could vary from table to table, the vessel forms were fairly stable according to their usage patterns. The table of a middle class family might be set rather simply. Each place would have wooden trencher or curved plate and a spoon, usually made of pewter. Drinking vessels would be glass, tin, or horn. A central serving vessel made of wood, pewter, or red earthenware would hold portions for the entire table.

By contrast, the formal dining table of the upper economic class of society was a mélange of vessel forms. The primary table service, usually of porcelain, white stoneware, or a refined earthenware, consisted of a soup/serving tureen and guides to good behavior were written for the aspiring young gentleman or gentlewoman. The dining experience perpetuated the desire for finer and more complex tablewares.

Charleston’s merchants had to provide wares for both the formal dinner party of the plantation owner and the simple family dinner of a craftsman. Where shop inventories are available, a wide range of wares is indicated, not only by form, but by ware type and price. For example, in the 1763 probate inventory from William Wilson’s Charleston shop, there are products in delft, porcelain, and coarse earthenware, indicating extremes of the economic and cultural array for ceramics (Fig. 2). In many cases, a variety of these wares would appear on one archaeological site, either due to a continuous occupation of the site, or due to the complex community, which co-existed there. Plantation and town houses of the wealthier citizen might have Chinese porcelain and slipwares on the same site, as these wares were used for different occasions. There might also have been a slave community associated with any location, thus complicating the ceramic record.

Although not discussed in this paper, the use of colonoware, a locally made African-American or Native American ware, also changed the distribution of ceramics on...
Charleston sites, particularly the coarser earthenwares.

The study of ceramic form and function provides a diagnostic tool for archaeological and historical analysis of Charleston’s society in the 18th century. When combined with an understanding of ceramic technology, and paired with trade patterns in the south, this study can help us to understand the factors, which influenced Charlestonians in their buying and selling of ceramics wares. The broader picture of

standard dinner fare for many Charlestonians, but they were also social drinks. Wine, punch, and ale were popular drinks of the late 1700s. Used in both tavern and home settings, the vessel of choice was the mug, which ranged from one gill (.25 pint) to two or more quarts, and was usually cylindrical in shape, with a sturdy handle. Mugs could be used by individuals or communally. In inventories and archaeological excavations, mugs appear in

Punch vessels ranged from 1/2 pint to several gallons, depending upon whether they were for individual or community use. Because of the similarity to bowls used for other purposes, these vessels are distinguished by their location within the house and the materials from which they were constructed. In household inventories, punch bowls were often found in the parlor or “best room,” where entertaining would occur. Items associated with the punch service included ladles,

import and exports must be considered in any evaluation of material culture patterns in the American colonies.

Wine, Punch, and Beer

The use of beer, wine, and other alcoholic drinks was part of the stoneware, earthenware, and porcelain of all sorts.

Punch was traditionally served in social settings, so these bowls were often found in porcelain, refined earthenwares, and stonewares, although the occurrence of delft punch bowls is considerable prior to the last quarter of the 18th century.

small and large bowls, and in one case, a mahogany punch cover.¹

The Charleston Tea Table

The social consumption of wine and ale were joined in the 17th century by tea and coffee drinking. By the third quarter of the 18th century, the

FOODWAYS, From Page 15

Fig. 3: Imported tablewares in delft, porcelain, and white salt-glazed stoneware. (Photo courtesy of Lisa Hudgins)
network of taverns was appended by a series of new coffeehouses and teahouses as annual tea consumption in Britain went from 3.8 million pounds in 1767 to 7.1 million pounds in 1770. Staffordshire historian John Thomas suggests that if tea had not become popular in Europe in the 18th century, that ceramics would never have developed at the exponential rate that occurred in the 18th century. “Tea from pewter was too hot, tea from wood was not pleasant, and horn “tot” was not suitable.” The clay body in porcelain and stoneware acted as an insulator against the scalding hot tea, and was readily accepted as the vessel of choice for the new beverages. As the popularity and ritual significance of tea drinking combined with the increasing importation of Chinese porcelains, European potters were spurred to meet the challenging and lucrative market that was unfolding before them.

In most colonial households, tea sets were displayed on tea tables or tea boards, rather than in the beaufat or china cupboard. Tea tables are occasionally listed in probate records of the period, traditionally a tripod table of mahogany with a circular top; other styles include the tilt-top table, pembroke table, etc.—any small side table that could be easily adjusted for serving company. Closely related was the tea board, a small wooden tray, usually with raised edges, which could hold the teapot, cup and saucer, creamer, and sugar box.

The introduction of tea to the colonies in the 17th century brought a new facet to the societal hierarchy in the colonies. Initially, the universal acceptance and use of tea was limited, as it was too expensive for many households; tea drinking may have been embraced by the upper classes as an elitist phenomenon. The ceremonial aspect of tea was imported from the East and grafted into “respectable” society. As tea drinking moved from public venues to the home, elaborate tea service “rituals” began to define the level of respectability attained by a young lady or gentleman. Eventually, however, middle class aspirations and economic fluctuations allowed tea drinking to become de rigueur in many social circles, and tea wares became a standard in many Carolina homes.

As the use of tea became more Anglicized, the concept of the tea set changed in the 18th century as focus shifted from the traditional Chinese to a more Western assemblage. Oriental style teacups did not have handles, and were usually two to two and a half inches high. The saucers were deep, and teapots were squat and round. Sugar and milk were not added to the teacup by the Chinese, so the associated creamer or milk pot and sugar bowl were later additions, as use of tea with sugar expanded in Western circles. As tea drinking became a Western habit, forms introduced by early East Indies traders evolved to meet Western standards of consumption. By the 1760s, the set might consist of a teapot, which was low and round, and/or a coffee pot, which was tall and slender (ht: 10-12 inches); six to 12 cups with or without handles, six to 12 saucers, a slop bowl, a lidded sugar dish, a lidded milk pot, and caddy. The tea service was often manufactured and purchased as a single set, with the lidded milk pot assuming a similar form to the coffee or teapot, only smaller (approximately five inches in height).

The cup changed in size and form depending upon its intended use. Teacups as defined above, were smaller than the handled coffee cups. Chocolate cups were similar in style, but could have two handles and usually matched the chocolate pot.

References to breakfast china and afternoon china are found in probate inventories from Charleston, and probably are used to distinguish the special use sets from the regular tea wares. Breakfast china, also referred to as a petit déjeuner service (from the French term for breakfast) or cabaret, were usually smaller sets of tea wares, designed to be carried to the bedroom or breakfast room. The set included a matching pot, cup and saucers, milk pot and sugar bowl, and a tray. Breakfast sets...afternoon tea...The tea set had gone from the simple teapot and cup to a decorative, stylish statement of social standing and elegance.

**Telling The Story of Charleston Foodways**

Charleston’s elite status in the 18th century allowed its citizens to access a wide range of food and drink, and produced a society, which was stylish at every level. Imported goods, as well as locally grown and manufactured items, reflected a complex system of trade and wealth. Eventually, remnants of that system became part of the documentary and archaeological record, which we now use to retell the story of Charleston’s influence in 18th century culture. Shipping records, wills, probate files, and newspapers all add to the stories that are excavated from Charleston’s soil. The more we look at the records, the more we learn, and the more colorful the stories become.

1. Inventory of Joseph Hurst, December 15, 1758. WPA Transcripts of Inventories, Charleston County, 1758-1761, WPA 158, Volume A, Part II, 172.
The first three training sessions for the new ArchSites program were successfully accomplished on June 25th, 29th and July 13th of 2007. Forty-nine people took advantage of the free instruction. They represented a wide variety of federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit programs and organizations, and cultural resource management specialists. It was very gratifying to see the diversity of interests and needs that the ArchSites program will be assisting.

Carmen Beard, ArchSites System Administrator—SCIAA, and Melanie Baker, Technical Analyst—ESRI, team-taught the sessions, which were a combination of general instruction with hands-on application. Each session participant was given access to the online site to practice what he or she had learned both during class and later on their own time. Any issues that the participants noted in the program were collected to an issues list, which the project team then considered for prioritized corrections or for consideration during any future iteration.

Just as a reminder, the project team is comprised of Wayne Roberts and Chad Long of SC Department of Transportation, Chuck Cantley and Elizabeth Johnson of SC Department of Archives and History, and Carmen Beard and I here at the Institute. The level of cooperation between our three agencies on this project of such far-reaching importance that has cross cut so many different lines of authority is unprecedented. We are all very pleased that we have reached this point.

We were all indebted to the USC Department of Geography for their collegial loaning of the computer lab for our training sessions. And, Jim Scurry and Holly Gillam with the SC Department of Natural Resources, Lynn Shirley and Kevin Remington with the USC Department of Geography, and Chris Gillam with the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program at SCIAA, have all assisted the project as primary testers. We appreciate their time and effort. Michael Stoner continues to assist in the population of the attribute databases. This will be a long-term effort that is well underway. Anyone wishing to sponsor a graduate student to assist Mike in this necessary work is encouraged to contact the State Archaeologist.
SCIAA / ART Donors Update January 2006-July 2007

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South Carolina Archaeology Month 2007
By Nena Powell Rice

The SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina is finalizing the coordination of the 16th Annual SC Archaeology Month to be held October 1-31, 2007. The fall event honors South Carolina’s prehistoric and historic heritage with tours, lectures, demonstrations, and exhibits located throughout the state. SCIAA, with the assistance of SC Department of Archives and History, commemorates the month-long event with a topical poster focusing on current research in the Palmetto state. This year’s theme is entitled “Foodways: We Are What They Ate, A History of Food in South Carolina.”

The Chair of the Poster Committee is Nicole Isenbarger of Brockington & Associates in Mt. Pleasant, SC. The focus of the poster will be on consumption—what people directly used for their cooking and what types of food they ate. On the back, a collection of nine articles briefly describes foodways in both prehistoric and historic contexts. Nicole Isenbarger (Brockington & Associates) provides an introduction to how food and culture interact, the ways in which it can be used for interpretations, and an overview of the articles on the poster and how they are related to foodways. Contributing authors on prehistoric themes include Rebecca Saunders (Louisiana State University) titled, “Feasting and Foodways at Fig Island,” which addresses feasting ceremonies at an archaic period shell ring; and Carl Steen (Diachronic Research Foundation) titled, “Subsistence Evidence from the Kolb Site,” which addresses archaeological and zooarchaeological evidence of hunter-gatherer activities at the Kolb site. Historic themes include articles by Martha Zierden (Charleston Museum) titled, “Foodways and Archaeology of the Lowcountry,” which will address archaeological evidence of diet from Charleston; Elizabeth Reitz (University of Georgia) titled, “Lowcountry Foodways: The Zooarchaeological Evidence;” Leland Ferguson (University of South Carolina-Retired) titled, “The 18th Century African-American Foodways;” Mark Groover (University of Tennessee) titled, “The Brown Cowpen and Howell Site: Colono Ware use in the South Carolina Backcountry;” Dan and Rita Folse Elliott (University of Georgia) titled, “Are You Going to Eat That?” on the diet of the Austrian-German Salzburgers in Ebenezer, Georgia; and Christopher Espenshade (Skelly and Loy) titled, “Zooarchaeology and the 32nd USCT at Camp Baird” on evidence of the diet of the African-American troops at Camp Baird.

Archaeology Month activities will culminate on October 20 with the 20th Annual South Carolina Archaeology Field Day, to be held at Historic Brattonsville near York, South Carolina. Sponsored by the Archaeological Society of South Carolina, Archaeology Field Day will feature demonstrations of how food has influenced the archaeological record. The objective of this event is for the public to walk away with a greater understanding of archaeology’s main objective—interpretation of past lifeways (not the collection of artifacts). This understanding will be conveyed through themed displays/presentations/activities focused on the collection, capture, growing, processing, storing, cooking, serving, consumption, and disposal of food and the material culture associated with these activities. The public will leave with an understanding of many of the artifacts found by archaeologists today that were directly or indirectly employed in subsistence related activities.

For a list of scheduled events in connection with SC Archaeology Month and Archaeology Field Day, visit the SCIAA website http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa or the Archaeological Society of South Carolina website www.assc.net. Also, Nena Rice at the SCIAA can be contacted at (803) 777-8170 or nrice@sc.edu for further details.