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The Goody Bag - March 1992

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

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These Bottles are Unique to South Carolina
by Carleton Allen Naylor

I can remember when I quit collecting shark's teeth — just plain lost interest in those fossilized incisors. It was the day I found my first South Carolina Dispensary bottle.

Perhaps it was the distinctive embossing on the bottle that grabbed my interest. Perhaps it was the knowledge that I had found an artifact that was unique to South Carolina. More likely, though, it was the fact that it was the first bottle I had ever found intact.

Since then, I have found other dispensary bottles and have learned that these bottles came in a variety of colors, shapes, and sizes.

The four basic colors or hues of dispensary bottles are aqua (green) tint, bluish tint, amber and clear (clear being considered a color by glassmakers). The aqua tint is one of the most common colors of dispensary bottles and was the result of the presence of iron as an impurity in the sand used in the glassmaking. The blue tint is believed to be from variations in the amount of manganese added to the glass. (Manganese was added prior to 1915 to make the glass clear, and sometimes a purpling results when this glass is exposed to the ultraviolet rays in sunlight. This is not considered a true color, however, since it happens after the glass is manufactured. After 1915, selenium was used to make clear glass since manganese, obtained from Germany, was no longer available.)

The addition of iron oxide during the making of glass produces the amber glass, the rarest of all colors in dispensary bottles.

Dispensary bottles were also made in four basic sizes: half pint, pint, quart and gallon. There are however thirteen distinct shapes of dispensary bottles from the common Jo-Jo flask with its rounded shoulders and base to the gallon demijohn which was covered in woven wickerwork. Some shapes came in various sizes, such as the Jo-Jo flask that came in half pint and pint sizes, and some came in only one size. Added to size and shape, as if they weren't confusing enough, was the lip type. Eight different lip types were represented on dispensary bottles. These lips were fashioned to accept a cork closure. Once the bottle was filled and the cork inserted, lead foil was wrapped over the top and cork. One variety of flask was made with a screw top that would accept a soft metal screw-on cap with a cork in the top of the cap.

Glassmakers marks are another feature of dispensary bottles worth mentioning. Most dispensary bottles were made out of state. Two common makers' marks were "E.P.Jr.&Co." and "P.Bros." which stood for E. Packham Jr. and Company, and for Packham Brothers Glass Company of Baltimore, Maryland. "C.L.F.G.Co." was the mark for C.L. Flaccus Glass Company of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. "Olean" is an uncommon mark and stands for the Olean Glass Company of Olean, N.Y. "IGCO" enclosed in a diamond denotes the Illinois Glass Company of Alton, Illinois. This company subsequently merged with Owens-Corning, who still use the triangle on their bottles. Dispensary bottles were also made by the Williamston Flint Glass Company of Williamston, N.Y., but carry no identifying mark. "Dixie" is another glassmaker's mark seen on

(Continued on p. 2)
dispensary bottles, however, no information has been found to identify it.

In 1902 a bottle-making company was formed in Columbia. This was the Carolina Glass Company and its mark, "C.G.Co." is seen on many dispensary bottles.

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of many dispensary bottles was the embossing identifying them as dispensary bottles. Of course many dispensary bottles had no embossings at all but carried paper labels. These, however, are seldom by divers — at least underwater. The two basic types of embossing were the SCD monogram and the palmetto tree. Both also contain the lettering “SC Dispensary.” The monogram embossing is on the half pint, and pint Jo-Jo flask and the cylindrical quart bottles. The palmetto tree is on the half-pint and pint Jo-Jo flask, the half-pint and pint Union flask, and the half-pint, pint and quart cylindrical bottles. There are literally dozens of subtle variation of each type of embossing, enough so that a collector could spend many years searching for all the variations. For instance, there are 13 variations of the monogram and 17 versions of the palmetto tree on the half-pint Jo-Jo flask alone. These variations are described in detail in Phillip Kenneth Huggin’s book The South Carolina Dispensary.

All in all, the various features found on South Carolina Dispensary bottles not only tell much about the bottles themselves but also much about the bottling industry of the time in general. For instance, it is known that a machine to make bottles without the need for a glassmaker to blow each bottle into a mold was put on the market in 1903. While the Automatic Bottle-Making Machine (ABM), revolutionized the bottle-making industry, there has been some discussion as to when the bottle manufacturers switched over to this technology. We know from the South Carolina Dispensary bottles, all blown into a mold, that many bottle manufacturers, at least the ones making dispensary bottles, waited until after 1907 (the last year of the dispensary) to introduce the new machine into their bottle making process.

Also, from the variety and abundance of embossed dispensary bottles we can induce that, although automatic labelling machines were introduced about 1870, embossing bottles was still a popular way to identify its contents. It should be remembered that since the dispensary system was a monopoly there was no need for fancy embossing to advertise or promote the product. Perhaps embossed bottles were simply cheaper to produce than plain bottles with labels.

And, considering the number of dispensary bottles I’ve seen in museums, antique stores, private collections, and flea markets I would say that they are far more abundant than other bottles from the same period. This could be due to the strength of the bottle itself, but I suspect their large numbers are due more to the popularity of the bottle’s contents.

In any event, South Carolina Dispensary bottles are a fine addition to any diver’s collection and to many of us more interesting than a bunch of old shark’s teeth.

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**BRIEFS**

**ASSC Banquet**

On Saturday, March 28 all participants of last year’s Waccamaw Project are invited to attend the Archaeological Society of South Carolina meeting and banquet in Columbia when certificates will be awarded. For more information contact Lynn “How Did We Miss That Timber?” Harris at 881-8536.

**License Checks To Continue**

Institute personnel are gearing up for even more intensive weekend license checks this year. These checks are not intended to harass divers out for a pleasurable time collecting treasures from our river bottoms but to bring home the message that the information supplied by divers in their quarterly reports allows us to do our job better in protecting these resources so that they may be enjoyed by all divers. Besides, the University wouldn’t approve our request to mount a machine gun on the bow of our boat. Remember, we can confiscate artifacts from divers who do not have a current license.

**Public Education**

Several hobby divers are giving talks on archaeology and showing artifact and fossil finds to public and school groups. Keep up the good work: Sally Robinson (Charleston), Jimmy Moss and Emony Vaughn (Abbeville), Miller Ingram (Cheraw). Are there any more hobby divers out there who have been involved in activities like this? We often have requests from schools for talk and show sessions. Maybe we could provide a list of hobby divers to contact who would be interested in volunteering for this public service. The SCIAA Underwater Archaeology Division staff also recently gave talks and set up an exhibit at Oakbrook Elementary School in Ladson. It was well received and fun.

**Oops**

Those of you who do not have anything better to do than read the fine print may have noticed that the September 1991 The Goody Bag was listed as being Volume One, No. 5 and the December issue was listed as being Volume Two, No. 4. No, you did not miss a bunch of issues in between. Due to an oversight which can only be attributed to something like nitrogen narcosis, the volume number had not been changed at the beginning of 1991 and the December issue was labeled such as it was to correct this.
UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY
DIVISION GEARS UP FOR
MALCOLM BOAT PROJECT

SCIAA's Underwater Archaeology Division has begun
preparations for its first major shipwreck excavation since
1989. Beginning on March 17 and continuing until April 10,
Division staff and volunteers will be excavating the wreck of
a small wooden sailing vessel eroding out of the banks of the
Ashley River in Charleston County. The wreck, known as the
Malcolm Boat after a fossil collector, Roger Malcolm who
reported the vessel in 1985, possibly dates to the late eight­
eenth or early nineteenth centuries.

SCIAA staff initially attempted to stabilize the wreck
with sandbags in 1987 after it was discovered that approxi­
mately two meters of the vessel had been lost to erosion since
its discovery. Regular monitoring of the site has since dete­
rmined that these efforts have been only partially successful.

The project is being funded through a grant from the
South Carolina Department of Archives and History. One of
the primary goals of the project is the attempt to stabilize the
site within its marsh environment and stem the current
erosion caused from boat wakes.

Other project goals include excavating approximately 50% of the vessel, plotting any associated artifacts,
recording details of the vessel’s construction, and post­
evacuation stabilization of the site. Excavated sediments will
be screened in order to recover any very small artifacts which
might be missed during excavation. All excavations will be
conducted at low tide to offer maximum control and visibility
on the site.

A limited number of volunteers are being sought to
assist in this project. We will be working on the weekends of
March 21-22 and 28-29, and possibly April 4-5. Assistance
would be appreciated any time during the project. If you are
interested in volunteering some of your time for this project
please contact:

David Beard
Underwater Archaeology Division
SCIAA
40 Patriots Point Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, S.C. 29464
(803)881-8536

DIVERS RETURN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY QUESTIONNAIRE
by David Beard

It has been a little over two months since we sent out
the questionnaire seeking input about starting an underwater
archaeological society in South Carolina. So far we have
received eighteen completed questionnaires. Anyone who
would like to have input into this project should try to return
their questionnaires as soon as possible. If you do not have
a questionnairre and would like to respond, please contact me
and I will gladly send you one.

All eighteen respondents to the questionnaire want
to form an underwater archaeological society. Eleven of
those prefer to be associated with the existing Archaeological
Society of South Carolina (ASSC). The primary reason for
this appears to be the desire for a solid structural foundation.
Four respondents said they would prefer an independent
organization. This would seem to be based upon a distrust of
that ASSC is an organ of that institution. The other respondents were undecided as to
preferred structure.

As far as how often to have meetings, eight respon­
dents preferred quarterly meetings, two wanted bi-monthly
meetings and six felt that monthly meetings would be desir­
able. Two were undecided. Eight respondents felt that the
meetings should be held in Columbia or at some other
“central” location, three wanted to meet in the Charleston
area, three preferred that the meetings be held at various
locations throughout the state, one felt that the meetings
should be held close to where the majority of members lived,
and one was undecided. The last respondent did not care
where the meetings were held, but suggested “a nice
steakhouse.” As a member of the Carnivore Club of America,
I kind of like the last suggestion!

Seventeen of the respondents agreed with having a
formal training program. Fifteen of those also felt that this
program should include certifications for various levels of
proficiency. One was opposed to certification levels and
overall three were undecided on either question of training
program.

Some good suggestions were made about the overall
concept. These included having the society “member driven,” which is the ideal for any avocational society, solic­
iting input from dive shops, having meetings on weekends,
and having a “toll-free hotline” for questions about artifacts.
Budgets being what they are, this latter would probably need
to be a “900” number with, sexy sounding and knowledgeable,
but strict, operators standing by to meet your needs.

We would like to begin laying the groundwork for
such a society but we need your input. If you have not
completed and sent back your questionnaire, please do so
by the end of March. We will publish the final results of the poll
in the next Goody Bag.
THE COMANCHE: SOON TO BECOME A NEW WRECK!

by Lynn Harris

During the last few months there has been a great deal of interest shown by the sport diver community in the vessel, Comanche, which is intended to be sunk as an artificial reef by South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources. The planned location is in 102 feet of water, 32 miles south east of Charleston. This is approximately 6 or 7 miles off the existing site Y73. Dive stores such as The Wet Shop and Charleston Scuba have been making generous financial contributions towards the project and numerous groups of divers have come to photograph and videotape the vessel before she sinks to her gloomy grave in April this year. As the Comanche is moored directly opposite our Underwater Archaeology Division's Field Office aboard the NS Savannah, we have had the benefit of numerous visiting divers. Mr. Chuck Waldrop, Director of the Maritime Museum, very kindly provided our office with a set of plans of the vessel. Several changes in crew and machinery areas have taken place since these plans were produced. For example, changes were made when the vessel switched from steam to diesel propulsion. Using these original plans of the Comanche we toured the vessel with Tom and Sally Robinson and attempted to figure out how the various compartments were utilized.

The Comanche has an interesting history. It was commissioned in April 1934. The 165-foot cutter served on New York's Hudson River breaking ice in winter until 1941. After that the Coast Guard turned her over to the Navy. The 1050-ton vessel operated as convoy escort on weather patrol between Boston and Greenland during World War II. Decommissioned in 1947, she was based at Hampton Roads, Norfolk as the pilot boat Virginia until 1983. The Comanche's last port-of-call was Patriot's Point Maritime Museum in Mount Pleasant where the vessel has been kept operational until recently and used for promotional purposes.
INTERIOR PLAN OF THE COMANCHE

The book begins with — after all that preface, acknowledgement, and introduction stuff — with a user’s guide that contains, among other things, illustrations showing 25 different neck types and 27 different base types used on historic medicine bottles. These two illustrations alone are worth the price of the book — well, almost anyway.

The book is divided into sections denoting the type of medicines found in bottles, ie, balms, bitters, laxatives, tonics, etc., and bottles are listed in each section in alphabetical order of their embossings. In other words, Buckingham Whisker Dye is listed just after Bryan’s Tasteless Vermifuge, and Carter’s Extract of Smart Weed follows California Fig Bitters, and ... well you get the picture.

Each bottle listing contains a variety of information about the bottle including its specific dimensions, its color, often a short history of the bottle and the company (with references), and in many cases a drawing of the bottle. For instance, we find that the Hibernia Bitters bottle was amber, measured 9 3/4” x 2 3/4” x 2 3/4” had a “ring” type neck, a “French square” base, its embossing was horizontal and was manufactured from 1886 to 1891 and sold by (Hermann) Braunschweiger & Co., an importer and wholesale dealer of wine and liquor in San Francisco.

The book also contains a 16-page color photo section, a bibliography, and an extensive index.

**Stonewares**

Now that we’ve covered bottles, another type of artifact commonly found by divers is stonewares, and one of the best books on the subject of American stonewares is Georgeanna H. Greer’s book, aptly titled *American Stonewares, The Art And Craft of Utilitarian Potters* (Schiffer Publishing Limited, Exton, Pa., 1981).

Despite its coffee-table-book appearance (and what’s wrong with coffee table books?), *American Stonewares* contains a wealth of information about this little known subject.

The book starts with a history of American stonewares beginning with their European origins, and then launches into an extensive and quite fascinating account of the process of making stonewares from the types of clay used, to the methods of shaping the pots, pitchers, jars and jugs, to the temperature ranges required in the firing.

Following chapters discuss the various forms of utilitarian stoneware, the types and methods of glazing the pots and jugs, the embellishments added to the stoneware, and includes a valuable section on identifying and dating stonewares. And all these subjects are illustrated with fine photographs of various examples of stonewares, many in full color. There are even several color photos of Edgefield (S.C.) stoneware from ca. 1850. Also contains an extensive bibliography and index.
18th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGY

Conference

The Archaeological Society of South Carolina will hold its Eighteenth Annual Conference on March 28, 1992 in the Campus Room of the Capstone Building at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Papers will be presented from 9:00 am until 4:30 pm. The registration fee for the day session is $4.00, payable at the door. Please pre-register if possible! The evening activities begin at 5:00 to 6:00 pm with a cash bar at the Top of Capstone, in the revolving room. Beer is $2.25 for domestic, $2.75 for imported, wine is $1.50 a glass, and assorted soft drinks are free. Free parking will be available in the B Lot which is located on the south side of the corner of Pickens and Pendleton Street.

Banquet

The evening banquet will be buffet style. The fare includes carved London broil, fried chicken, broccoli, glazed carrots, rice pilaf, caesars salad, fruit salad, relish platters, assorted cakes, iced tea, and coffee. The cost is $13.00 per person. You must pre-register for the banquet. Your name and check must be mailed to Nena Powell, Treasurer, payable to The Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC), no later than March 20, 1992. Mail your registration to Nena Powell, Treasurer, Archaeological Society of South Carolina, c/o SC Institute of Archaeology, University of South Carolina, 1321 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29208, 803-777-8170 or 799-1963.

Lecture

The banquet lecture will be delivered this year by Dr. David Hurst Thomas, Curator of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City who will present a slide-illustrated talk entitled, "Archaeology of a Spanish Mission", based on his excavations at Mission Santa Catalina de Guale on the Coast of Georgia.
REGISTRATION
18th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGY

REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE ($4.00)
Print Name(s) ____________________________
Address ____________________________
______________________________

REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET ($13.00)
Print Name(s) ____________________________
Address ____________________________
to

DUES (1992) ____________________________

PLEASE MAIL BEFORE:
March 20, 1992

TO:
Nena Powell, c/o ASSC--
SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE:
Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC)

NOTE: Cancellations of prepaid dinners must be done by March 24, 1992 to receive a refund.
APPLICATION FOR SCIAA 1992 UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY FIELDSCHOOL

Name: ____________________________  Sport diver license number (if any): ______________
Address: ________________________________________________________________

Phone number: ____________________________  Occupation: __________________________

Diving qualifications:

Brief resume of diving experience:

Reasons for attending the fieldschool:

Any specialty area in underwater archaeology that interests you:

About the Fieldschool: Run by archaeologists and staff members of SCIAA, this is an annual underwater archaeology fieldschool for dive instructors or advanced divers. It includes laboratory/classroom, pool and openwater sessions. Students must provide their own diving equipment, including an underwater flashlight and at least one scuba tank.

The 1992 Fieldschool is limited to 10 people. It will be held from Monday April 27, through noon on Friday May 1, at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. The cost is $50.

The deadline for applications is April 1, 1991. Please DO NOT ENCLOSE YOUR FEE with this application. We will let you know by April 10 if your application was accepted and you may pay your fee at that time.
SPORT DIVERS WILL GIVE PRESENTATIONS AND RECEIVE AWARDS AT THIS CONFERENCE

Preliminary Program
ASSC 18th Annual Conference on South Carolina Archaeology—March 28, 1992
8:30-9:00 Registration: Campus Room- Capstone Building
9:00-9:05 Welcome Christopher Judge, Program Chair and Society Librarian

Morning Session ASSC President George Lewis, Chair
9:05-9:25 The Threat of Lyme Disease in South Carolina: Should the Archaeological Community be Concerned. Lee Tippett, South Carolina Department of Archives and History
9:25-9:45 The Site in Spratt’s Bottom. Rita Kenion, Museum of York County
9:45-10:05 South Carolina’s Middle-Late Woodland Period Shell Middens were Fishing Camps. Dr. David Lawrence, Department of Geology—USC
10:05-10:30 COFFEE BREAK
10:30-10:50 “And They Went Down Both Into the Water,” The Historical Archaeology of Springfield, A Free African American Community from the Revolution to Jim Crow. J.W. Joseph, New South Associates
11:30-1:00 LUNCH
1:00-1:10 Announcing the first “South Carolina Archaeology Week” September 21-26, 1992 Nena Powell, Society Treasurer/SCAW Coordinator
1:10-1:30 Bringing the Past to Life: Teaching History Through Archaeology. Debi Hacker, Chicora Foundation-Education Coordinator
1:30-1:50 The History and Archaeology of Kiawah Island. Natalie Adams, Chicora Foundation
1:50-2:10 Cherokee Archaeology and Recent Investigations at the Chattooga Town Site. Dr. Gerald Schroedl, Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee
2:10-2:30 Passports in Time at the Chattooga Town Archaeological Project. Gail Ingram and David Segars, ASSC Members
2:30-2:50 TBA J. Alan May, Schiele Museum of Natural History
2:50-3:10 COFFEE BREAK
3:10-3:30 TBA Carl Steen, Diachronic Research Foundation
3:30-3:50 TBA Michael Trinkley, Chicora Foundation
3:50-4:10 TBA, Patti Byra, Department of Anthropology-USC
4:10-4:30 TBA
4:30-4:50 The Waccamaw-Richmond Hill Area Waterfront Project: Laurel Hill Barge. Hampton Shuping, Sport Diver Program
4:50-5:00 Considerations on the Formation of An Underwater Archaeology Section of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina: Pros and Cons. Lynn Harris, SCIAA-Sport Diver Management Program

*See registration form insert for this conference
Editors: Lynn Harris & Carl Naylor
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Carl Naylor
Diver Contributors: Sally and Tom Robinson

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