

in the 1930s. After graduating from the University of New Mexico in 1938, he worked from 1938 to 1940 as a WPA Archaeology Project supervisor on Southwest projects, and in 1941 served as the National Park Service archaeologist at Canyon de Chelly National Monument.

Hurt entered graduate school at the University of Chicago after the war to work with Fay-Cooper Cole, but when Cole retired, transferred with Ted Guthe, Tom Lee, Bill Sears, and Hale Smith, to the University of Michigan to complete his graduate work, concentrating upon lithic studies. His 1952 Ph.D. from Michigan was entitled "A Comparative Study of the Pre-ceramic Occupations of North America." He was hired by the University of South Dakota in 1949, and taught there for 14 years, focusing his research on the Paleoamerican and Archaic phase cultures. In 1956, he began his first work in Brazil, and when he took the job at the Indiana University Museum in 1963, shifted his interest completely to South American research, again focusing on Paleoamerican and Archaic manifestations, continuing field work until 1988, two years after his 1986 retirement. Hurt died November 3, 1997.

The remainder of the Plew volume includes several papers by Hurt's colleagues and friends, with contributions on both North and South American cultural evidence, but with no additional history of Americanist archaeology discussion.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/bha.10111>

## **VI. Activities of Various Academic Gatherings Related to the History of Archaeology**

Stephen Nash (Department of Anthropology, The Field Museum of Natural History) sends word of the following symposium which was held during the Society for American Archaeology's Annual Meeting in April 2000:

### **Symposium: Picking the Lock of Time: Developing Chronology in American Archaeology in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries"**

Organizer: Jim Truncer

Session Abstract:

Chronology posed a vexing problem for turn-of-the-century American archaeologists. Resolution of this issue remains a major breakthrough, yet developments leading to a solution were complex, occurring on many fronts and involving numerous individuals and diverse institutions. Papers in this session address this complexity by examining the impact of individual contributions to chronology development, allowing a better understanding of how the solution eventually unfolded as it did.

Papers:

Bruce Bourque: "Adolphe Merlot and the Development of Archaeological Chronology in New England."

New England archaeology began in the late 19th century with excavations of Maine shell middens by Jeffries Wyman and others from Harvard University's Peabody Museum. Accounts of these excavations reveal a sensitivity to stratigraphy and awareness of the passage of time during their deposition. By 1885, Frederic Ward Putnam had developed what he called "the Museum method", which was employed in the excavation of the huge Whaleback midden in Damariscotta. One source of these methodological insights appears to have been the Swiss geologist Adolphe Morlot, who heretofore has received little

mention in discussions of the history of American archaeology.

David Browman: "The 19th Century Peabody Museum Stratigraphic Excavation Method."

Two important techniques were developed and began to be integrated into American archaeology, in the late 19th century: stylistic and frequency seriation, and stratigraphic excavation (actual field excavation by strata, rather than post-facto armchair interpretations, which began as much as a century earlier). This paper focuses upon the development of the "Peabody Museum Method" of stratigraphic excavation—the first method so far documented to be actually taught in the classroom (in 1901). Originated by F.W. Putnam, it is perhaps best seen as employed by this students such as Charles Peabody, William Nickerson, Frank Russell, etc.

Michael O'Brien: "Nels Nelson and the Continuous Measure of Time"

Nels Nelson stated explicitly that when he went to San Cristobal in the Galisteo Basin of New Mexico in 1914, he wanted to test a suspected local sequence of pottery types. He knew or suspected the relative chronological order of the types, but only by excavating at San Cristobal was he able to establish their relative chronological positions. Contrary to the received wisdom, there was nothing revolutionary about what Nelson did in terms of stratigraphic excavation. The innovative part of Nelson's work was in his being able to measure culture change not by using the then-typical qualitative differences in artifact assemblages such as the presence or absence of pottery - a culture trait - but rather by documenting, in revolutionary fashion, that pottery types altered in absolute frequency through time in a pattern that he characterized as very nearly normal frequency curves that reflected the fact that a style of pottery came slowly into vogue, attained a maximum, and then began a gradual decline.

Lee Lyman: "A.L. Kroeber's Southwestern Chronometric Work"

Rarely is the origin of a major innovation in science clear, with ambiguities feeding the history of a particular discipline. Not so with frequency seriation. A.L. Kroeber, in his remarkable paper "Zuni Potsherds", presents a discursive account of precisely how he came up with the idea of frequency seriation. His discussion also makes it clear that earlier explorations of similar ideas played no role in the development of the method, contrary to many claims made after the fact. As important as Kroeber's method has been in Americanist archaeology, the principle behind it has been largely unexplored. Although frequency seriation has been used as a chronological tool, Kroeber suspected it could be used for much more, but he did not explore such avenues. Recent interest in explaining the histories of artifact lineages in terms of heritable continuity has proved that Kroeber was indeed correct.

James Truncer: "The Middle Atlantic Revolution that Never Happened."

Leslie Spier's work at the Abbott Farm site in New Jersey, published in 1918 as "The Trenton Argillite Culture", was innovative on a number of fronts—documenting site formation processes, identifying a ceramic "culture", and attempting to chronologically order projectile point types. In contrast to his southwestern research which helped to revolutionize chronology in American archaeology, the Abbott Farm publication had practically no impact. This paper explores the substantive and institutional reasons why no such revolution occurred in the Middle Atlantic and discusses the implications for archaeologists today.

Stephen Nash: "Not So "Talkative" Tree-Rings: Why Did Archaeologists Wait for an Astronomer to Establish Tree-Ring Dating?"

Despite the fact that earlier scholars, including a number of archaeologists, noticed the dating possibilities in tree-rings, it took an astronomer interested in the relationship between sunspot cycles and climate to develop tree-ring dating in its modern aspect. Once demonstrated as an applied archaeological science in 1929, archaeologists quickly became gleeful supporters and consumers of dendrochronological data. This paper examines the many and varied reasons behind archaeologists' unwillingness to conduct basic research in the field of tree-ring dating in particular, and their disinterest in chronology in general, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Robert Dunnell: "The First New Archaeology and the Development of Chronological Method."

No matter where one stands on the new archaeology of the 1960s, the literature of the period has an exciting quality that even archaeologists long after can appreciate. The same is true of the first "new archaeology" that came of age during the first couple of decades of this century. Rooted in the two big archaeological "problems" of the 19th century, the mound builders and early man, the early 20th century saw the development of chronological methods that allowed archaeologists, for the very first time, to generate scientific knowledge. How this was accomplished is germane today as these methods remain central to the discipline.

A roundtable discussion on the history of Southwestern archaeology was held on August 12, 1999, in conjunction with the 72 Annual Pecos Conference in Show Low, Arizona. The organizers were James Snead (George Mason University) and Jeff Thomas (Northland Pioneer). Participants included Andrew Christenson, Kurt Dongoski (Hopi Tribe), Wendy Holliday (Hopi Tribe), Kathy Howard (Arizona State University), Joan Mathien (National Park Service), J. Jefferson Reid (University of Arizona), Raymond Thompson (University of Arizona), Gwinn Vivian (Arizona State Museum), John Welch (White Mountain Apache), Stephanie Whittlesey (Statistical Research), and David Wilcox (Museum of Northern Arizona). Originally planned as an informal discussion, the roundtable format was converted into a public forum at the request of the conference organizers. Facilities were made available by Northland Pioneer College, and the event took place in front of an audience of 70 people. The keynote address was delivered by J. Jefferson Reid, who spoke on "Archaeological Histories and the Loss of Innocence." Reid reviewed a number of critical areas in the historiography of archaeology, touching on the relevance of the subject for modern agendas, the role of oral histories, and the particular strengths that archaeologists bring to understanding our own past. The discussion that followed was wide-ranging but frequently returned to the history of public-professional relations in Southwestern archaeology, a topic that spurred considerable audience participation. The relevance of the history of archaeology in understanding the current crisis of identity in the discipline, particularly as defined by relationships with the Native American population, was widely endorsed. At the conclusion of the session a list of e-mail addresses of those interested in the history of Southwestern archaeology was compiled by the organizers. Anyone interested in adding their names to the list, or with other questions pertaining to the roundtable, should contact James Snead (jsnead@gmu.edu).

The Cultural Collections Committee and the Department of Anthropology at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago are jointly planning a two-day event to celebrate the past, present, and future of Anthropology at The Field Museum. The event will help to ring in the centennial year of the American Anthropological Association in 2002. The keynote speaker for the museum program will be Dr. David Wilcox of the Museum of Northern Arizona, who will speak on the afternoon of Sunday, October 22, 2000, followed by a panel discussion. The roster for this panel will include distinguished scholars from

the Chicagoland area. The Monday, October 23rd, event will include a sit-down dinner with 3-5 short presentations for which Dr. Gary Feinman, Anthropology Chair, will serve as moderator. Other events will highlight this evening program. For more information, including names of panelists, as well as information about tickets and schedules, please contact Dr. Stephen E. Nash, Head of Collections, Department of Anthropology, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

**Society of American Archaeology History of Archaeology Interest Group Formed.** Stephen Nash has send word of the formation of a history of archaeology interest group which has been formed within the rubric of the Society for American Archaeology. Stephen Nash (Field Museum of Natural History) and James Snead of George Mason University were elected as co-chairs of the new History of Archaeology Interest Group of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) replacing the recently dissolved SAA History of Archaeology Committee. The new interest group will focus on developing the biennial Gordon R. Willey Symposium in the history of archaeology at the SAA meetings, as well as generating scholarly exchange in the history of archaeology on an appropriate listserv. The listserv address is: [histarch@fmnh.org](mailto:histarch@fmnh.org). Questions or comments should be directed to Nash at [snash@fmnh.org](mailto:snash@fmnh.org) or Snead at [jsnead@osf1.gmu.edu](mailto:jsnead@osf1.gmu.edu).

## VII. Announcements/Sources Relating to the History of Archaeology

An extremely important and useful biographical compendium (in two volumes) of archeologist's lives has appeared under the very able editorship of Tim Murray (LaTrobe University). This massive effort is the result of many years of work by Murray a number of other contributors to the project and has resulted in one of the most usable sources of biographical material relating to the origins and growth of archaeology. ABC-Clio Publishers has brought out the two volume set under the title of *Encyclopedia of Archaeology - The Great Archaeologists*. Below is a listing of the contributions to both volumes in the set:

### Volume I

“William Camden (1551-1623),” by Graham Parry

“John Aubrey (1626-1697),” by Grabam Parry

“William Stukely (1687-1765),” by Graham Parry

“Johann Joachim Winklemann (1717-1768),” by Max Kunze

“Sven Nilsson (1787-1883),” by Johan Gegardt

“Daniel Wilson (1816-1892),” by Bruce G. Trigger

“Gabriel de Mortillet (1821-1898),” by Nathalie Richard

“Heinrich Schliemann (1822-1890),” by Leo Klejin