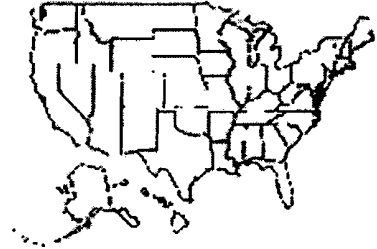


National Association of State Archaeologists

NASA News



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**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND
DISCUSSIONS**

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

1:30 - 5:00 pm

Delta Centre-Ville, Montreal, Canada

NASA SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM

Thursday afternoon, April 1

Delta Centre-Ville

***Protecting Sites That Don't Fit Expectations:
Cemeteries and Submerged Resources***

Organizer and Chair: David Snyder

Participants: Snyder, Strattan, Early, Schermer, Crass,

Burns and Langford, Halsey

(see final program for rooms and times)

Editor: Hester A. Davis, Arkansas Archeological Survey, 2475 N. Hatch, Fayetteville, AR 72704

hadavis@uark.edu

BOOK COMMENT

Arzigian, Constance M. and Katherine P. Stevenson

2003 *Minnesota's Indian Mounds and Burial Sites: A Synthesis of Prehistoric and Early Historic Archaeological Data*. The Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist, Publication No. 1. St. Paul

How many of you have your very own publication series? Not many that I know of--in fact, not ANY that I know of, but that may be because I've been out of various loops for almost five years. Mark Dudzik does, however, and congratulations to him and to the authors of this monster. It looks like a Tour de Force: 558 pages, 45 tables, and 342 figures. The only thing missing in this tally is an Index.

"This study provides a single, comprehensive source of data about Minnesota's mounds and burial sites. Although the most immediate purpose for assembling this information was to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of burial sites management, the project also was intended to provide a versatile information base that can be used for a much broader range of management and research applications." Appendix D, which is 203 pages long, provides descriptions, by county, of what is known of all 1,861 mounds and burial sites in the state, using records from all available sources (University of Minnesota, Hamline University, etc.), not just the OSA database. This is especially valuable because the 252 illustrations include historic maps, drawings, and profiles; original field maps in some cases and some taken from publications or reports. The nature of the information in the text is best described by the Table of Contents:

Chapter 1. Introduction (4 pages).

Chapter 2. Mound and Nonmound Burial Excavations in Minnesota (33 pages)

An historic summary of who investigated mounds and burial sites over the last century; summarizes Minnesota's relevant laws and preservation practices.

Chapter 3. Previous Analyses of Burials-Related Information (8 pages)

Elsewhere is the note that the volume does NOT include information about specific osteological studies or studies of burial associated artifacts; if these exist they are referenced.

Chapter 4. Data Collection, Evaluation, and Analysis (21 pages).

Specific information on how the researchers interpreted the information they found in diverse sources; a final section is entitled "Summary of Biases, Errors, and Limitations."

Chapter 5. Cultural Contexts (53 pages).

Chapter 6. The Internal Physical Structure of Minnesota Mounds (30 pages).

Chapter 7. Types of Features Found in Mounds (11 pages).

Chapter 8. Locations of Features Within Mounds ((11 pages).

This includes a short "Summary and Management Implications," an important consideration because if mounds contain burials, legislation requires different management than if they do not.

Chapter 9. Mounds as Burial Sites (21 pages)

Chapter 10. Evaluations, Conclusions, and Future Research Directions (13 pages).

Appendix A: Data Collection Forms and Database Structure (8 pages)

Appendix B. Archaeological Regions (4 pages)

Appendix C. Data Tables (74 pages)

Appendix D. Site Descriptions (203 pages)

Bibliography

The project took five years (the total of 1,861 sites is as of the end of 2002); the detail is staggering; the copy-editing itself must have been a nightmare, but anyone else contemplating such a synthesis for publication would clearly benefit from consulting with Mark and others in his office.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE NASA NEWSLETTER

There have been a rash of questions asked through the net/web in the last couple of weeks, and I saved (probably not all) the responses which went back out on the NASA net. If what I have is ALL, then the number is small and doesn't give the breadth of experience which must be contained in the heads and files of individuals who may receive the message. Everyone is busy. Some may not read their emails from NASA. Whatever. Below are the questions, plus a topic from Tom Eubanks for discussion. Any one of these subjects could be considered for further discussion at the NASA meeting in Montreal, and/or for a symposium next year in "ta ta" Salt Lake City or in 2006 in "TA TA" Puerto Rico.

Would it be helpful if the questioners were to put together the responses in a useful form and send that

back out to the rest of the State Archeologists? If you are interested in this kind of summary of answers to questions, what if the summary were sent to the Newsletter Editor, and every six months you could receive a newsletter chocked full of useful information?

This is a slim issue, hardly worthy of the name. Unless I remember in time (which I didn't this year, obviously), and NAG you all or nag you individually, there is little to communicate this time, since you got the announcement of the meeting from Tom. There is certainly money in the coffers for two newsletters a year, and I enjoy nagging people.

So there's another topic for the meeting on March 31 (for which I will not arrive in Montreal in time to attend, so somebody take notes, please!).

SOME QUESTIONS FROM STATE ARCHEOLOGISTS TO STATE ARCHEOLOGISTS

From David Crass, Georgia:

I'm thinking about constituting an advisory board of sorts from outside our office to act as a sounding board, provide some general policy guidance, etc., on archaeological issues. Have any of you folks taken such a step, and if so, do you have any advice (like, is it a good idea to begin with), membership qualifications, terms, types of issues have have been addressed etc.?

From Glenna Dean, New Mexico:

New Mexico is attempting to revise its permits for archeological work on state lands and I'm wonderful if the group could help me with any examples of language defining "professional performance" and penalties for lapses in professional performance. I am especially interested in how "lapsed professionals" can rehabilitate themselves so as to recieve state permits again.

Also from Glenna:

The New Mexico SHPO is considering legislation to create a state cemetery in which to rebury human remains that have come from unmarked burials but have not been claimed by a descendant group for reburial on their own land. These are typically Native American remains but not exclusively so. I understand that Iowa has one or more such cemeteries. Does any other state? Details on how they are set up will be appreciated.

From Tom Eubanks:

I've had some bad experiences with the SAA NHL Review Committee's take on some nominations from Louisiana for National Landmarks. It seems to me that many of us who are in SHPO offices may be in better touch with the National Register and the Landmarks Program and have more realistic views about what information and standards of proof should be required for a Lankmark nomination. Does anyone else have experience working with the SAA NHL Committee?