
CENTRAL GULF COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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CENTRAL GULF COAST
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY, 2014

36 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE



EDITOR: BECKY O'SULLIVAN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2014, 7:00 PM

AT

WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY CENTER
1800 WEEDON DR. NE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33702



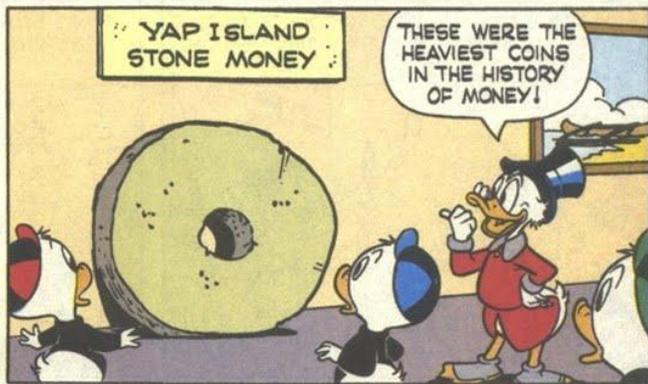
Christian Wells, Ph.D.
University of South Florida

Pirates, Protestants, Militia, and Miskitu: The Royalization of Roatan Island

In 1742, on the heels of the golden age of 'pirates of the Caribbean,' a British military outpost was established on Roatan Island off the north coast of Honduras. The community, Augusta, housed a mix of British settlers and militia along with local indigenous Miskitu peoples. While the settlement was occupied for a brief span of only seven years, the archaeological record of the community provides an exciting glimpse into a world of complex interactions among Protestant settlers, English pirates, Spanish soldiers, enslaved Africans, and native Miskitu during early efforts by the British to royalize its colonies. In this presentation, I discuss the concept of royalization and then describe the results of our four field seasons of archaeological investigations at Augusta, which have unearthed mixed deposits of English and Miskitu material culture. I argue that such deposits indicate that Miskitu labor played a key role in the operation of the colony and, consequently, that Miskitu identity became entangled with English lifeways and lifestyles. These entanglements reveal some of the ways in which the process of royalization was adapted to the unique social and natural landscapes of the western Caribbean.

These programs are free and open to the public. Please register at least 24 hours prior to this event by visiting <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/archaeology-lecture-series-pirates-protestants-militia-and-miskitu-the-royalization-of-roatan-island-tickets-9131172583?aff=eorg>. You can also call 727-453-6500 to register.

DUES ARE DUE!



Although we can take many forms of payment, stone money is not accepted for CGCAS dues payment at this time.

Do you enjoy our monthly lecture series? If you would like to see it continue in the future please do your part and renew your membership with CGCAS. Your dollars go toward bringing top archaeological researchers from throughout Florida and the Southeast to speak in our area. CGCAS wouldn't be possible without your continued support. Thank you for all that you do to make this group possible (and thank you for your continued support!)

Dues can be paid in a variety of convenient ways: they can be paid directly to Cheryl Shaughnessy at our monthly meetings, they can be mailed to Cheryl at P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL 33780, or they can be paid online at our website through Paypal at www.cgcas.org. Again, your dues are what make our monthly speaker series possible, thank you for your continued support of CGCAS!

OPERATION TIMUCUA IN THE NEWS AGAIN, A RESPONSE FROM CGCAS MEMBERS

By: Becky O'Sullivan

On Sunday, January 5th an article appeared in the *Tampa Bay Times* regarding the individuals caught selling artifacts taken from state lands throughout Florida. Instead of focusing on the real destruction caused by the choices these individuals made, the reporter instead chose to question why artifacts and archaeological sites are worth preserving at all. Below are two responses to the article from FAS President Jeff Moates and

CGCAS Director Bob Austin. Please write the editors at the *Tampa Bay Times* and let them know why you think the preservation of archaeological sites is worthwhile. To read the original article published follow this link:

<http://www.tampabay.com/features/humaninterest/north-florida-arrowhead-sting-whats-the-point/2159379>



Some of the sites the subjects looted have been completely decimated and will never be able to be studied by professional archaeologists in the future. Image from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

In a recent human interest story *Guardians or Looters?* written about the individuals arrested during an undercover FWC sting operation to stop illegal artifact collection and trade in Florida, *Tampa Bay Times* reporter Ben Montgomery attempts to describe the actions and motives of those involved on both sides of the case. As a human interest piece however, Montgomery misses the point. He fails to make mention of an important segment of the archaeological community, the interested public, and how these folks have been affected by the dishonest and irresponsible behavior of the individuals arrested in the case.

In the story Montgomery writes that taking artifacts has been illegal since 2005. Technically speaking, this statement is true. But, as Montgomery eventually points out, the Florida legislature made taking artifacts and causing destruction to archaeological sites on state lands illegal in 1969. However it was in 2005 when the Florida Historical Commission voted to repeal the Isolated Finds Policy (IFP) that many individuals interested in collecting artifacts from river bottoms, including the men depicted in the piece, decided to continue the activity even though they knew it was illegal.

The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is a state-wide, volunteer-run organization whose

mission is to provide a conduit between bureaucrats, researchers, and the public to enhance interest in Florida's past. Along with hosting an annual conference and publishing a peer-reviewed anthropology and archaeology journal (*Florida Anthropologist*), FAS and its current seventeen Chapters have served in this capacity since 1949. To maintain good standing in FAS, members contribute a minimal dollar amount annually and agree to abide by a statement of ethical responsibilities. Anyone can become a member.

Membership and participation in FAS is one of the many ways citizens of Florida and of other states chose to participate in archaeology in ethical and productive means. The Statement of Ethical Responsibilities establishes guidelines by which FAS members and Chapters should direct their activities. Section 1(a) guides members to, "abide by all federal, state, local or tribal regulations that affect the archaeological record." One of the benefits of being a member of FAS is a more direct line to opportunities to actually participate in real archaeology. Many Chapters have collaborative relationships with universities and other research or public-oriented institutions that provide outlets for the interested public to become directly engaged in the sense of discovery.

Last May, the FWC officer who led the investigation Operation Timucua, Major Curtis Brown, spoke about the evidence and arrests to a supportive crowd at the annual FAS conference. Attendees met his presentation with resounding applause. For many of us in the room Operation Timucua will serve as the cornerstone example of law enforcement intervention into the illegal collection and trade of artifacts and the destruction of archaeological sites in Florida. The men in this story chose not to abide by Florida law and are facing the consequences of their choices. In Florida and elsewhere, many people participate in archaeology by legal means. More than a few of these folks, some of who are the most invested in and passionate about archaeology in Florida, attended Major Brown's presentation.

To some folks collecting is a pastime passed down through families, learned from dads and granddads that it's okay to hunt or collect artifacts. Prior to the end of the 1960s, collectors and hobbyists could legally pick up and take such things. But it is not legal to do so today on public lands. Unfortunately a more worthwhile human

interest story connected to Florida archaeology and the preservation-minded citizens of Florida is clouded by the consequences of choices made by a select few individuals depicted in this story. Archaeology enhances all of our lives today. We all have choices that can contribute to our knowledge of the past and to Florida archaeology in a positive way. The individuals focused on here chose otherwise.

*Jeffrey T. Moates, President
Florida Anthropological Society*

I am one of the archaeologists who was quoted in Ben Montgomery's story about the prosecution of 14 men for the looting of artifacts from state land. While Mr. Montgomery brings up an important issue that deserves wide discussion, I was disappointed that he chose to portray these individuals as victims of overzealous law enforcement. Collectors have an important role to play in archaeological discovery, if they play by the rules. One of the rules is that you do not take artifacts from public lands. These men did not play by the rules. They broke the law and now they will have to pay the consequences. They collected artifacts from state lands, which is a felony and has been for many years. They almost certainly knew this, otherwise why be suspicious when asked about where individual artifacts came from? The Isolated Finds Program, which I supported, was an attempt to decriminalize responsible collecting in Florida rivers by restricting it to those artifacts found in isolation or in disturbed contexts and only when the collector provided the state with a brief report on what was collected and where. But this program was rescinded, as these individuals also surely knew, and yet they continued to collect. It has never been legal to dig for artifacts on state lands.

Mr. Montgomery equates the value of artifacts with the amount of money that can be obtained for them on the black market and asks whether the small dollar amount for most artifacts is worth putting these men behind bars for "decades?" These statements suggest an inadequate understanding of archaeology. The value of artifacts and archaeological sites is the information that they contain, not the objects themselves. When artifacts are ripped from their context they have limited information potential because the

relationships between artifacts, hearths, refuse pits, postmolds from structures, and the strata that contain these are destroyed. Every professional archaeologist knows this. It is why we keep such meticulous records; so that these relationships are documented and the information preserved. The laws that make it a felony to remove artifacts from sites on state (and also federal) lands were enacted to keep such wanton destruction from occurring at the hands of people who have deluded themselves into thinking that they are preserving history. State lands are public lands and public funds are spent to maintain them. The archaeological sites on state lands deserve to be left alone until such time as they can be investigated thoroughly and professionally for the benefit of everyone, not just a few selfish individuals.

There are many “good” collectors who play by these rules and who have made important contributions to the study of Florida history; these men are not among them.

Robert J. Austin, Ph.D.

INTERESTING ARCHAEOLOGY READ: *MOTEL OF THE MYSTERIES*

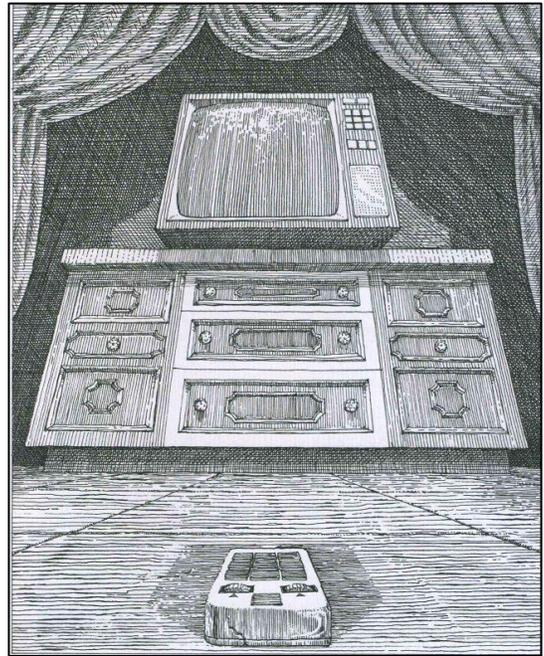
By: Lou Claudio

I'm sure most of us associated with archaeology have at one time or other pondered what archaeologists of the future will make of the unearthed artifacts from our times. It's a question I posed in my video “Ancient Pinellas” when one of the images I used to illustrate the concept of kitchen middens was a shot of a mound at the Pinellas County landfill. In the 1973 movie “Sleeper” (click on the link below) the issue is humorously visited in a scene where Woody Allen's character is awakened 200 years in the future after being cryogenically frozen and he's being debriefed by scientists of the time seeking his help to identify articles they've found from the 20th century <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkK7wue2xGk>.

During the prehistoric sherd ID portion of an FPAN pottery workshop last spring at the Weedon Island Preserve I raised this question about future archaeologists with my partner in the exercise, Karen, who suggested I read *Motel of the Mysteries* by David Macaulay (1979). I did and

thank her for the tip. The premise of the book is (from Amazon):

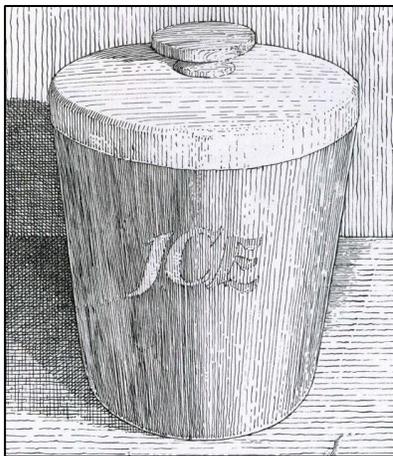
It is the year 4022; all of the ancient country of Usa has been buried under many feet of detritus from a catastrophe that occurred back in 1985. Imagine, then, the excitement that Howard Carson, an amateur archeologist at best, experienced when in crossing the perimeter of an abandoned excavation site he felt the ground give way beneath him and found himself at the bottom of a shaft, which, judging from the DO NOT DISTURB sign hanging from an archaic doorknob, was clearly the entrance to a still-sealed burial chamber. Carson's incredible discoveries, including the remains of two bodies, one of them on a ceremonial bed facing an altar that appeared to be a means of communicating with the Gods and the other lying in a porcelain sarcophagus in the Inner Chamber, permitted him to piece together the whole fabric of that extraordinary civilization.



“Motel altar” from *Motel of the Mysteries*.

What Howard Carson has actually found is a roadside motel and his interpretation of the artifacts contained in the burial chamber /Room 26 are at times quite amusing...as with the interpretation of the "upper altar" (TV set) as a device for communication with the gods, which “Judging by impact marks on the top and sides of the upper altar, some aspect of this communication was dependent upon pounding the surface.”

Then there is the Internal Component Enclosure, an “exquisitely fashioned container, a twentieth-century adaptation of the ancient Canopic jar”...labeled “ICE.” Besides its humor-value, this wonderfully illustrated book perhaps also serves as a cautionary tale to those who engage in interpreting artifacts and extrapolating their cultural significance - which I think was clearly the author’s intention besides serving up a very entertaining read.

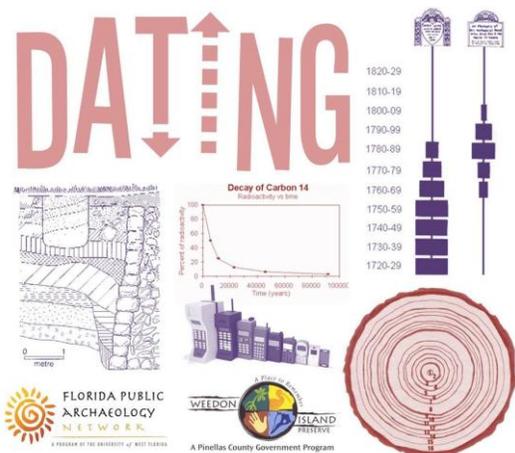


“Internal Component Enclosure” from *Motel of the Mysteries*.

UPCOMING ARCHAEOLOGY EVENTS

Archaeology Works: Dating Workshop
Saturday, February 15, 2013 from 10:00 – Noon

ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS:



Archaeologists find lots of clues to the past, but how do they figure out how old all those dusty artifacts are? From looking at how artifact styles change through time to running high tech tests on them to get a better date, archaeologists have many

different dating techniques at their disposal. Learn about a few of these different dating methods then try them out and see if you can get a date!

WHERE: Weedon Island Preserve
 1800 Weedon Dr NE, St Pete

To register, follow the link:
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/archaeology-works-dating-tickets-8670300101?aff=eorg>

Tracing the First Floridians, the Paleoindians
Friday, February 21, 2013 from 2:00 – 3:00pm

Archaeologists hunt down clues from the past using scientific methods to study what people's lives were like hundreds or thousands of years ago. Exciting research by archaeologists across Florida is shedding light on some of our state's earliest residents: the Paleoindians. Whether through the study of ancient tool types or by looking for Paleoindian habitation sites that are now located in the Gulf of Mexico, archaeologists are using cutting-edge tools to learn more about what Florida was like more than 10,000 years ago. This talk will explore what we know about Florida's first residents, as well as how archaeology can inform us about this little understood part of our past.

WHERE: South Manatee Branch Library
 6081 26th St W, Bradenton

For more information go to:
<http://www.mymanatee.org/home/government/departments/neighborhood-services/library.html>

WANTED: WEBMASTER FOR THE CGCAS WEBSITE

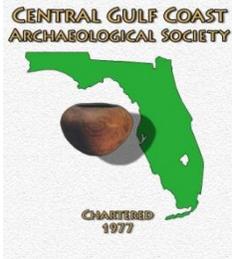
We are looking for a slightly tech-savvy individual to help out with the upkeep of the CGCAS website. No knowledge of coding or html is required; the website was designed through a fairly simple interface. If you are interested in helping out please contact Chris Hunt at cnhunt@mail.usf.edu. If you haven't already, make sure to check out the revamped CGCAS website at www.cgcas.org.

CGCAS OFFICERS\DIRECTORS

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Editorial Assistants		Bob Austin, Dave Burns	

THE SOCIETY

The Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS) is an association of amateur and professional archaeologists and concerned citizens dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Florida's great cultural heritage. CGCAS is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and is a state chartered non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the cultural past of Florida and who is dedicated to the understanding and preservation of that heritage.

Amateurs, professionals and concerned citizens are welcomed as members. Membership is yearly and all dues are payable in January. Contact Cheryl Shaughnessy at P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL 33780

	Dues
Individual	\$20.00
Student	\$10.00
Family	\$25.00
Life	\$150.00

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