



NEARA TRANSIT

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ENGLAND ANTIQUITIES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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Winter solstice bridge opening near the Hammonasset Line in North Madison, CT (Photo: Tom Paul)

TOM PAUL, HAMMONASSET LINE IN THE NEWS

NEARA researcher Tom Paul has been studying pre-colonial stone structures since he moved to Madison, Connecticut, 15 years ago and discovered a whale-shaped cairn near his home. Trekking uncountable miles and taking meticulous notes and measurements, he has catalogued hundreds of cairns, animal effigies, walls, balanced rocks, observation platforms, prayer seats and lithic complexes that make up part of what Paul calls the Hammonasset line. Marking the winter solstice sunrise and the summer solstice sunset, the line starts at Native American Council Rock in Montauk, Long Island, goes through Madison to the Devil's Tombstone south of Hunter, NY, in the Catskills and extends all the way to Manitoulin Island in Canada. Tom believes the structures along the line are thousands of years old but does not know who built them or why. He



Part of the Hammonasset Line from Montauk to the Housatonic River

Founded in 1964, the New England Antiquities Research Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to a better understanding of our historic and pre-historic past through the study and preservation of New England's stone sites in their cultural context. The NEARA Transit is published twice a year at the spring and fall equinoxes. Please address correspondence to Susan Thompson, Editor, 11 Cotswolds Drive, North Salem, NY, 10560. Susieit@optonline.net

Volume 23, No. 1 (Issue #443, 3/1/11). The ideas and opinions expressed in the Transit are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Board of Directors or of a majority of the members.



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has reported his findings at several NEARA meetings and in articles posted on our website. At the fall meeting in Storrs, CT, he shared his recent research of sunken stones on the line in the Hammonasset Reservoir.

All of this work caught the attention of Peter Marteka, a reporter for *The Hartford Courant*, who investigated Tom's claims and did an excellent, even-handed interview in the December 20, 2010 issue. Marteka also questioned NEARA VP Glenn Kreisberg who says he feels there "is some validity" in the concept that Native Americans built stone structures that align. Connecticut State archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni said he finds the research very interesting but that more testing will have to be done "in development of the theory of a 'line.'"

Paul, who is a retired research engineer, has served on NEARA's Board and as Treasurer for 13 years. He also is a longtime member of the Westford Knight Committee, serves on his local land trust board and on the town wetlands board. Not surprisingly, he spends most of his time in the woods. To read his Hammonasset Line reports, visit www.neara.org/PAUL/Hammonasset01.htm and www.neara.org/PAUL/Hammonasset02.htm You can reach Tom Paul at cthomaspaul@sbcglobal.net ST

Norman Muller: Vermont cairns: In October, David Connelly, a friend from Princeton, and I explored the Stockbridge cairn site in the town of Barnard. The site is a good mile hike in on a rather steep logging road.

Where the road forks after reaching a plateau, we took the left fork and walked past some rather nasty logging activity of a year or so ago, to an area where we could see stone constructions on the left. Our focus was the large platform cairn with the large cobble of quartz in the center, perched on top of a small knoll. A downed tree had landed on top of the cairn, but it didn't appear to cause much damage. From there we headed down slope to a long, rounded ledge outcrop, now partially hidden by trees, which I estimated to be 40 feet long and about 8 feet high, with a near vertical side facing south. Behind it to the east, on a high rocky knoll and visible from the outcrop, was a terrace wall about 20 feet long (Fig. 1). On a previous visit I had photographed this spectacular looking feature, which reminded me of one in Rochester (Figure 2), but I had never climbed up to study it carefully. This time we got to the top. On top of



Figure 1



Figure 2

the fill behind the wall façade were two and perhaps three recumbent standing stones, the largest being three feet long with a flat base (Fig. 3). The others were smaller but also seemed to have flat bases. The terrace façade faced the ledge outcrop mentioned above. Dave and I agreed that the standing stones were placed in

response to it. We found one other major feature, a massive terrace wall (Fig. 4). nmuller@princeton.edu



Figure 3



Figure 4

Recognition for Native American Cairns: An important item "Set in Ancient Stone" in *American Archaeology* (Vol. 4, No. 4, Winter 2010-11, p.46), describes a recent acquisition of a stone mound site in northeast Alabama called the Shelton Stone Mound Complex. Dr. Harry Holstein, the archaeologist in charge of investigating the site, began his study in 2003, and over the next seven years mapped 79 stone conical mounds, linear stone walls and one "horseshoe-shaped mound." The news item says: "Holstein and his colleagues think that the mounds and walls are most likely part of the spiritual beliefs associated with Native American mortuary practices, which consist of erecting stone monuments in ceremonial places to commemorate important events, such as the passing of loved ones." I believe this is the first time a cairn site of this sort has been officially recognized by a conservative archaeological organization.

Just recently, an archaeologist who was previously quite critical of my own research at the Oley Hills site, not accepting that Indians were responsible for con-

structing the massive cairns and serpentine stone rows found there, wrote the following after digesting the news item in *American Archaeology*: "Little by little the importance of these altered and managed landscapes will be enveloped within archaeological and anthropological research." This is an important admission, and we can expect to see a shift in viewpoint among archaeologists as news spreads of this acquisition and more sites are discovered.

Holstein heads the Jacksonville State University Archaeological Resource Laboratory in Alabama, and just last year he was prominent in fighting the proposed construction of a Sam's Club store in Oxford, Alabama, which would have destroyed a large stone mound on a hill behind the construction site. Well written stories about the mound appeared in the *Anniston Star*, which can be accessed online. Unfortunately, the mound was not saved, and one archaeologist concluded that the stone mound was natural! Holstein has also written important archaeological reports on the Shelton Stone Mound Complex, the Morton Hill Stone Structure Complex, and the Skeleton Mountain Snake Effigy, all of which are in Calhoun County, Alabama.

nmuller@princeton.edu

Glenn Kriesberg --Turtles, turtles everywhere! Given their place in Native American creation myth and culture, it should not be surprising to find turtle effigies at suspected ceremonial sites throughout the northeast and elsewhere. It doesn't take much imagination to see turtle forms in the five photos of "piles of stones" on this and the next page.



Spruceton Valley, Westkill, NY (Photo: Norman Muller)

A universal Native American creation myth states that after a great world flood, earth retrieved from the sea floor was placed on the back of a turtle's shell. The foundation that was built upon it created the land mass we today call North America. Could these constructions have been created to pay homage to that myth?

cliffrover@aol.com



Killingsworth, CT. (Photo: Norman Muller)



Turtle boulder and accompanying cairns at the Bearsville Hollow site in Woodstock, NY (Photos: Glenn Kreisberg)



Below, North Salem turtle cairn (photo: Susie Thompson)



Gérard Leduc – Alignment at Potton Springs:

Since the discovery of sulphur springs in 1828 by Nathan Banfil, the Potton Springs site in Potton, Quebec, has fascinated people. A spa hotel flourished from 1875 to 1934, and in 1998, the Poorna Jnana Yoga Foundation began to develop a health and spiritual center.

Over the years, I have researched the site and last fall discovered an archaeoastronomical site. Photos taken during the winter solstice period confirmed it.

A steep slope leads to the sulphur spring located on the hillside of Mount Peeve. At the top of a cut stone staircase, there is this large pointed flagstone:



Looking south towards the Sutton Mountains, you see a large boulder in the woods below. The stones align to the sunset at the winter solstice. The picture taken at this moment illustrates the event:



Is this a coincidence? No. The stone pointer was man-made, and it shows the intention of the site builders to watch the horizon at a precise moment. In addition, they built a second alignment that tells the **theoretical azimuth** of the winter solstice sunset. At the base of the steps leading to the sulphur spring, another large stone block was aligned with the pointer above to give the

azimuth zero of the winter solstice sunset. The **theoretical azimuth measured was 239°** -- two degrees higher than the one predicted from an astronomy table.

Within the limits of winter field work errors, I am convinced that the alignments confirm that men keen on astronomy laid out this site not only to watch the sunsets at the time of the winter solstice but also to leave a concrete testimony of their knowledge of the cosmos. Indeed, in this case, they were able to demonstrate the difference between the theoretical and the real azimuths.

Human knowledge of astronomy goes far back. In France, archaeologist Chantal Jègues-Wolkiewiev has discovered, in 35,000 year old caves, evidence of archaeoastronomical sites aimed at the sun, the moon and constellations. These discoveries were illustrated in a fascinating film: *Lascaux: le ciel des premiers hommes*.

The Potton Springs site deserves more in depth research because it was a high place for astronomy and spirituality and it is not the first archaeoastronomical site discovered in Quebec. Who were these stone workers of an advanced culture who left ruins as far back as 1800 years ago? Leduc.potton@xplornet.com

COORDINATORS' REPORTS

Maine – Ros Strong: We eagerly anticipate hosting our spring meeting and hope to see you April 29 – May 1 at the Merry Manor Inn in South Portland. There is much to be enthusiastic about! The low \$65 rate is good for a few days before and after the meeting, so why not plan a vacation and take advantage of the heated indoor/outdoor pool, the adjacent Jacuzzi and the fitness center? There is a fridge and microwave in every room. We will have a free hospitality room to enhance our ability to network, share informally and meet some of our Maine members. Our keynote speaker is Dennis Stanford of the Smithsonian. Check out the list of other exciting speakers on our website and make your reservations early.

On Friday afternoon from 2-3 we will have a tour of the Osher Map Library and the chance to see their fabulous collection of rare atlases, maps and globes from 1500-1800. Sunday field trips will include Spirit Pond, the North Whitefield cairns and the Jefferson chamber.

We were visited last fall by two researchers from Norway, Sivert Flottum who has built and sailed a Viking type ship, and Kristen Mo, head of the History department at the U. of Trondheim. They have extensively researched possible routes and have zeroed in on Penobscot Bay. Clayton took them out in his boat and they checked out some likely spots. Now they would like to find information about ancient water levels. We also had an inquiry from an archaeologist in Russia. The website works! krosspt@lincoln.midcoast.com

Massachusetts – Peter Anick: We were treated to blue skies and chilly weather for our October trip to Leominster led by rockpile expert Peter Waksman. Peter has been blogging about rockpile sites in Massachusetts for years. Visit his rockpiles.blogspot.com website to see his ongoing discoveries. The Leominster region is one of his favorites because of the number and variety of unusually large cairns. The best preserved structure rises to a height of six feet in the center and reveals walled sides and two concave sections on top. Mt. Wachusett is the dominant feature of the landscape and may perhaps be related to the site.



George Morrison, Peter Anick, Peter Waksman, Carol Montgomery, Polly Midgley alongside a Leominster cairn (photo: Amy Vickers)

Development continues to threaten Massachusetts lithic sites. The bad news is that a pair of small but dense cairn clusters appear to be in the path of new road construction through a Southboro woods. The good news is that the owner of a subdivision site in Canton actually did some research into a possible lithic feature on his property and contacted NEARA to investigate further. A prominent boulder atop a rocky bluff is labeled “Pulpit Rock” on an early deed and may be where John Elliot preached to the Punkapaog “praying village”.

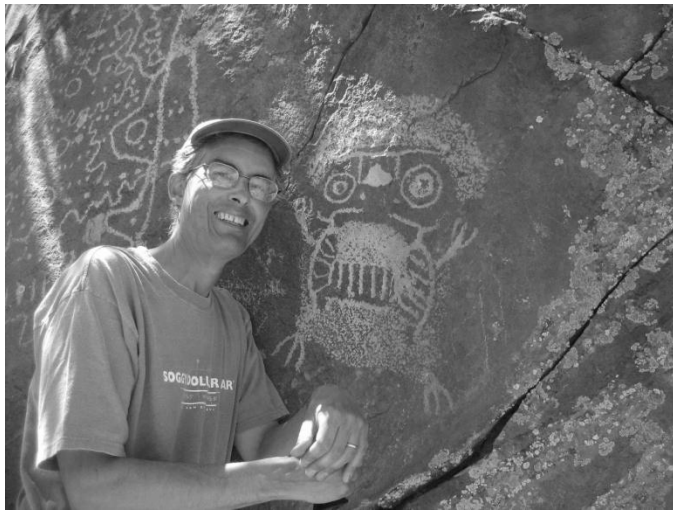


Pulpit Rock

A local Punkapaog descendent says his family has been visiting the site for generations and considers it sacred. He reports that Pulpit Rock casts a shadow on a nearby Manitou stone at winter solstice sunset. Fred Martin took some measurements and believes there may also be lunar alignments related to the boulder configuration. The developer currently plans to preserve this section of the property.

Snow dumped repeatedly on our plans for a winter field trip to Lakeville to visit petroglyph and astronomical alignment sites. Check the NEARA_members Yahoo group for a new date for this trip in the spring.

This past summer and fall, I saw some out-of-state lithic sites. Atop Medicine Mountain in Wyoming is the well-preserved “medicine wheel,” known as a place of vision quest. It was interesting to view this feature in the context of the surrounding landscape, which included several smaller circles in the immediate vicinity as well as other vision quest and prehistoric camping sites on neighboring mountain tops. Wyoming also has a number of very substantial petroglyph sites which may date from as early as 11,000 years ago to historic times. The most engaging are the large and complex “Dinwoodie” panels portraying mythical creatures believed to inhabit the skies and streams.



Peter Anick near Torrey Lake, Wyoming with a Dinwoodie style petroglyph thought to represent an owl spirit

Near Washington, DC there are petroglyph sites along the Potomac. One, on a high bluff facing a steep hilltop with a possible solstice alignment, contains a panel with three stick figures wielding spears (or atlatls). The other, just downstream from the Potomac’s Great Falls, is a stunning water-weathered boulder with the deeply grooved impression of a face in the shape of a fish. See Ed Lenik’s book *Making Pictures in Stone* for more details.

The stick figure site was only recently discovered by an amateur who, as you can imagine, is now surveying all the boulders he encounters for further carvings. Keep your eyes peeled for engravings, particularly on large

smooth boulders along rivers and streams. They can be hard to see since visibility is often sunlight dependent. Best detection is usually in the morning or evening.

Peter_anick@yahoo.com

New Hampshire – Donna Thompson: The NH holiday potluck party is rescheduled for Sunday, March 27 at my home in Derry. I hope some of the snow will be gone and we will have room to park! Call me at 603 434 5135 or email rubydruby@comcast.net for more information.

Look for information about field trips later in the spring on our website.

New York – Polly Midgley: This unusual and beautiful ceiling is thought to belong to a real root cellar. It was found and photographed by Dale Saltzman in Cortlandt where he and Rob Buchanan learned of a new town ordinance to preserve stone walls. Dale describes the ceiling as “a marvel of construction” and says the jammed together stones seem to be held up by compaction. The north-facing structure is on an old farm. Dale and Rob hope local preservationists will soon become interested in saving this and other chambers, along with the walls.



More examples of the abundance and variety of stone structures in the Catskills have been compiled by Glenn Kreisberg and David Holden in the town of Woodstock on Mt. Tobias (height 1620’) on a southeasterly facing slope. Glenn says there are “several curving walls that begin and end abruptly and serve no apparent purpose.

Two of the curving walls are of differing heights and run into each other. If these could be seen as ‘serpent’ or ‘snake’ walls, it would appear one was eating the other or chasing the other’s tail.” There are also a cairn and two small chambers built into hillsides.

In addition, a small chamber and cave/rock shelter have been reported from the western Catskill area; and a small stone shelter from the mid Catskills.

In an effort to better document solar events as they relate to NY stone chambers, our early rising members



Small chamber on Mt. Tobias

have been urged to check a variety of cross quarter, solstice and equinox sunrises and sunsets in nearby chambers. More is accomplished by spreading out and observing many chambers than by all meeting at one. Some variations in solar displays have been found, and we hope to discover why.

As coordinator I expressed my opinion to a local conservation group that watchdogging over activities for preservation and non disturbance of stone sites is preferable to promotion of the sites. Publicity and groups attracted by it seem to put stone sites, especially chambers, at greater risk of alteration and vandalism.

Glenn has given presentations at the Woodstock Historical Society and at Oblong Books in Rhinebeck about local lithic work and a book he edited, *The Lost Knowledge of the Ancients*. Expressing his belief that previous cultures have had astronomically aligned stone structures for thousands of years, he asked his audience if this might be true for their area. polmidge@optonline.net

Rhode Island – Jim Egan: I have been busy summarizing my nine books on the Newport Tower into one synopsis entitled, *Elizabethan America: the John Dee Tower of 1583, A Renaissance Horologium in Newport, Rhode Island.* A horologium is a building that keeps track of time. jim@jimegan.com

Vermont – Lisa Gannon: Like the rest of New England, Vermont and its sites are buried in deep snow. We will hold our annual meeting on Saturday, March 26 from 10–noon (details to be announced) and will set goals for the 2011 field trip season. We hope to focus our efforts on the documentation of the West Bolton sites. On March 22 & 23, there will be a meeting of members of USET (United South and Eastern Tribes), and archaeologists from the U.S. Forest Service to discuss what scientific examination, if any, may be performed on one of the Rochester cairns under the guidelines of the USET’s Ceremonial Landscape Preservation. USET holds Ceremonial jurisdiction over this site because it is located on Federal land. Vermont NEARA has

been invited to participate in this discussion. While it is unlikely that USFS will be granted tribal permission to proceed with their original plan to partially dismantle a ruined cairn, this meeting is an important step in furthering lines of communication between interested public and private agencies and Native peoples. We welcome this opportunity to participate. lissalass@yahoo.com

SEND YOUR PHOTOS
of cairns, chambers, effigies, standing stones, walls, etc., for the 2012 NEARA CALENDAR!
Please send as attachments at least 300 dpi to Glenn at Cliffrover@aol.com Be sure to include a caption and your name and contact information.

PRESIDENT’S NOTES – SUE CARLSON

The latest round of semiannual meetings found us at the University of Connecticut with an energetic combination of speakers ranging from our members to academic professionals associated with the University. We are encouraged that this mix will forge new partnerships in preserving our lithic heritage. One highlight was a tour of the Connecticut Museum of Natural History – Archaeology led by State archaeologist Nick Bellantoni.



Sue Carlson and VP Glenn Kreisberg at the Connecticut meeting.

Special thanks to our Board members who worked so hard to create a successful gathering and especially to our members, old and new, who bring the enthusiasm and create the dynamic interplay that characterizes NEARA. The NEARA Board forms the coordinating links connecting all our activities, and we have met twice. Board members have met twice, December 09 and February 10 to conduct the business of the organization; Library, Research, Membership and Publications, and coordinators reports elicit lively discussions on policies, positions and projects.

We have had nearly 180 responses to our members’ survey. My NEARA battery was recharged by all the appreciative and enthusiastic comments and “actionable”

good ideas and suggestions, which I hope to share with you in the future.

By April 29th Mud Season in Maine will be over and the Black flies still incubating -- a perfect time to visit the rocky coast of Maine. I hope to see you all there.
krosspt@lincoln.midcoast.com

MEMBERSHIP—LEE MCKENNEY

It is pleasure to welcome the following new members: *Colorado*: Peter Sutherland, Denver; *Connecticut*: Irene D'Alessio, Woodbury; Jerry Allison, Bethany; *Illinois*: Cynthia Sens, Silvis; *Massachusetts*: Michael Tredeau, Burlington; C. Roberta Lombardi, Amherst; Michael Remillard, Bellingham; Henry Lord, Westwood; Harriet Hornblower, Dunstable; Jason Paradise, South Attleboro; *Maine*: Robert A. Sirois, Gorham; *New Hampshire*: Patricia Lewis, Hampton; *New York*: Manny Grossman, Bronx; Ditra Walsh, New York; Joan E. Bachorik, Oneonta; *Ohio*: John Feiertag, Cincinnati; *Rhode Island*: Karen Saucier, Cumberland; *Texas*: Michael Xu, Bedford; Arthur D. Faram, Arlington; *Vermont*: Shoshana Boar, White River Junction; *Washington, D.C.*: Jean-Daniel Stanley.

Please let me know at nearamembers@comcast.net if you change your address or email.

JIM GUTHRIE'S COMMENTARY

One of the genuine pleasures of editing this newsletter is reading the twice-a-year packet of excellent commentary that comes via snail mail from James L. Guthrie, Ph.D. A voracious reader and analyst, Jim keeps his finger on the pulse of research and discoveries concerning the prehistory of America. A retired industrial chemist, (he specialized in the formulation of ink at W.R. Grace), Jim is also an epigraphist and spelunker. He has been a NEARA member for many years and began writing for our publications in 1992. His contributions to this issue cover a wide range of topics related to the peopling of the Americas. ST

NORTH AFRICANS IN EARLY CANADA Terry Deveau reported in the previous *Transit* that Mi'kmaq families of Acadia carry a North African variety of mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA) that indicates African contact. This shouldn't be surprising, in view of 17th century observations that the Mi'kmaqs communicated with symbols that have been compared in recent year to Egyptian hieroglyphs. Lou Bauer (2000) presented a comprehensive account of this phenomenon in the *NEARA Journal* (Vol. 34, No. 2:89-97), citing some of Barry Fell's comparisons. It seems certain to me that the Mi-kmaq symbols stem from symbols that long predate the French misso-

naries who have been credited with their invention 80 years before Champollion's decipherments. Geneticist Theodore Schurr (2000) in an article titled "Mitochondrial DNA and the Peopling of the New World," noted that the Narragansett Indians of the same region also have the African type L MtDNA. See *American Scientist* 88(3):246-53.

Deveau recounted speculation that Portuguese fisherman brought Africans to Acadia from the Azores, quoting the popular but erroneous belief that "It is known that the North African MtDNA markers entered the Azorean population as a result of the Portuguese slave trade." Actually, North Africans had colonized the Azores during the Neolithic period, well before 2000 B.C. (see Cavalli-Sforza, *et al*, 1994, *The History and Geography of Human Genes*, p. 172). Traces of early North Africans in the Maritimes is a fascinating subject, but I think that interdisciplinary work at a high level will be required before conclusions will be warranted.

BERINGIAN DATES The notion that the ancestors of all Americans came from Berengia is amazingly durable, despite the lack of scientific support. According to an article by K. Hill in the July *Mammoth Trumpet* (Vol. 25, No. 3:15-20), the oldest secure date from sites near the strait in just before 8,000 B.C., while dates from inner Alaska go back to 12,000 B.C. Archaeological evidence found so far suggests that Beringia itself was populated fairly recently, even though it was largely unglaciated during the ice age and probably could have supported a small population. Hill describes new attempts by archaeologists Kelly Graf, Ted Goebel and Heather Smith to find an older date for human occupation in Beringia and their hope that a site on the Seward Peninsula known as BEN-192 will yield the long-sought prize. The bulk of Hill's article, "Digging into Owl Ridge," concentrates on new work at a site near Fairbanks, where one of the goals is to push Alaskan dates back from 14,000 to 20,000 years ago.

These archaeologists have used selected data and peculiar interpretations of genetic distributions to convince themselves that the ancestors of all indigenous Americans came from the same gene pool in northeast Asia (the single migration scenario) and that they spent thousands of years in the Beringian refuge before starting to move into the rest of America about 20,000 years ago. Their arguments have been summarized in previous issues of the *Transit*. This group sees no evidence for inputs from South Asia or from Europe or that there could have been any people in the Americas before they left Berengia, and they are certain that settlements at least 20,000 years old remain to be found near one shore or the other of the Bering Strait. How will it turn out?

EARLY AMERICANS FROM SOUTH ASIA For more than a decade, physical anthropologists such as Walter

Neves and C. Loring Brace have argued on the basis of craniofacial features of ancient skulls that the earliest Americans may have come from South Asia, probably before the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) or Ice Age. It has been recognized for nearly a century that skulls of the earliest Americans were longer and narrower than those of most modern Indians, and their resemblance to those from Australia and New Guinea caused certain populations, especially those of southern South America to be termed "Australoid." Affiliation of their languages with those of Australia led to speculation that the first Americans had rafted directly from Australia to South America. The modern view is that certain early American populations do have close common ancestry with Australians, and that those ancestors were South Asians, not Siberians. In other words, there seems to have been a major early input to America from South Asia and a later one from North Asia that gave rise to modern North American Indians. This is a simplistic model, of course, because people came to America from diverse places over a very long period.

A new study of this subject prompted a brief anonymous note "Was the New World Settled Twice?" in *Science*, June 19 (Vol. 328, No. 5985:1467). The work, apparently yet to be published, is said to be the most sophisticated analysis of craniofacial traits attempted to date and to involve the largest number of skulls. Previous findings were reinforced. In my own examination of published genetic distributions, I have noticed that the so-called "Australoid" populations of South America have elevated levels of haplotype Ns in the MNSs genetic system and that this is a characteristic of people from New Guinea, Australia and Melanesia. It seems likely that future genetic and cranial studies will yield a more complete picture of how the Americas were populated.

NEW BOOKS BY FEDER *Skeptical Inquirer* for January/February, 2011, notes on page 59 that Kenneth Feder (Central Connecticut State University) has published a 293-page *Encyclopedia of Dubious Archaeology* as well as the sixth edition of his *Frauds, Myths and Mysteries*. I have reviewed two previous editions of his textbook in the *NEARA Journal* (2005) and *Pre-Columbiana* (2007), admiring his goal of introducing students to critical thinking while deploring his reliance on marginal sources, selectivity and carelessness with facts. Professor Feder claims familiarity with science and history, but his work is peppered with errors and misunderstandings such as assertions that Arabic and Egyptian are European languages, that the heat of a fire results from the conversion of mass to energy, and that the Kensington Stone is a fake. He urges application of dubious investigative tools such as the tautological hypothetico-deductive method and the pseudoscientific Occam's razor, whereas the first step in critical analysis should be

getting the facts straight, regardless of what methods of discovery or argumentation are involved. It will be interesting to learn his latest views.

BAT CREEK STONE The Tennessee Bat Creek stone is the only inscribed tablet to have been excavated from a mound by the Smithsonian Institution, despite discovery of numerous others in or near Midwestern mounds. It, like the Johnson-Bradner tablet of Newark, Ohio, was under a skull. Engraved Hebrew letters in this relic are heavily patinated, a situation that could have resulted only from centuries of burial in a moist environment. First to study the grooves with a microscope was economics professor J. Huston McCulloch (1989), who published details (1993) both in *Tennessee Anthropologist* (Vol. 18, No. 1:1-26) and in *Biblical Archaeology Review* (Vol. 19, No. 4:46-53). He noted that originally orange dust from the fresh incisions had reconsolidated completely into a dark gray crust and that there had even been time for a concretion to form in one of the letters. As expected, skeptics ridiculed McCulloch's lack of formal credentials as a geologist, writing, for example, that his opinion was no more valid than that of a plumber (Mainfort and Kwas, 1993, in *Biblical Archaeology Review*, (vol. 19, No. 6:18). But in May, 2010, professional geologist Scott Wolter confirmed McCulloch's findings, using a scanning electron microscope at the University of Tennessee. Wolter concluded that the condition of the inscription indicated many hundreds of years of weathering in wet earth and that it was cut no more recently than burial of the mound's nine bodies (*Ancient American* 18:2-9) Nevertheless, archaeologists probably will continue to prefer complicated "conspiracy" explanations of the Bat Creek stone to a simple one based on science.

CELTS IN GREENLAND One of the earliest "Viking" graves in southern Greenland contains remains that, according to DNA tests, are "more Celtic than Nordic." Analyses were done by Jette Arneborg, of the National Museum in Copenhagen, who thinks this is because explorers from Norway were accompanied by women from the British Isles. However, 11th century historians such as Ari Thorgillsson claimed that the Irish preceded the Norse in Iceland, Greenland and lands farther to the west. The new results were reported in an anonymous account titled "Nordic Melting Pot" in the June/July issue of *Current World Archaeology* (No. 41).

HAIRLESS DOGS IGNORED More than two years have elapsed since *Science* published research demonstrating that the "culinary" dogs of Mexico, Peru and Ecuador are genetically the same as those of China (see *Transit* 21, No.1). Linnaeus (Carl von Linné) thought the peculiar dogs came from Egypt, name them *Canis aegyptius*. So far the press hasn't commented on any of this. Have all the science writers been laid off? Brought to America

more than 3,000 years ago, the unique dogs are important evidence for ancient inter-hemispheric voyaging, and the story once would have been front-page news. *Archaeology* circled around the topic (September/October, Vol. 63, No. 5:26-35) in a feature article by Jarrett A. Lobell and Eric A. Powell titled "More than Man's Best Friend." A full page on "Dogs as Food," illustrated by a hairless dog rendered in pottery from the Mexican Colima culture, would have been a good place to present the new genetic finding, but *Archaeology* passed, presenting instead miscellaneous observations about Olmec and Maya practices regarding dog meat and evidence that the animals were mass-produced and corn-fed on farms. We'll have to wait a while longer for the fog to dissipate.

REVIEWS, GATHERINGS AND RESOURCES

NEW AND NOTEABLE IN THE NEARA LIBRARY ANNE WIRKKALA

Archaeology of Native North America by Dean R. Snow Prentice Hall, 2010. An update of the author's old standby in the field (*Archaeology of North America*) now covers all of North America, including Mesoamerica, and is organized around the current day themes of evolution and ecology. A definitive read on the subject.

Encyclopedia of Dubious Archaeology by Kenneth L. Feder Greenwood, 2010. Now here is a book with something to raise each and every NEARA member's blood pressure! All of our pet projects and friends, even NEARA itself, are subjected to this Connecticut professor of anthropology's lens. To be fair, not all fare poorly. And there are some interesting links for further research. Even NEARA itself is deemed a credible organization that "deserves praise and gratitude." So curl up with a controversial read and you can turn your heat down this winter. (Jim Guthrie also has something to say about Feder. See p. 9)

Ethics and Burial Archaeology by Duncan Sawyer Duckworth, 2010. Who owns the dead, not just their bodies, but also their stories? This English lecturer in archaeology takes on the ethical hot potato of human remains found at sites with an open mind and provides some new agendas for all groups to consider.

Icelanders in the Viking Age by William R. Short McFarland, 2010. Who were the people of the sagas? An independent scholar from Massachusetts with deep research into these people attempts to answer this and many other questions from the modern reader of Icelandic sagas. He drew heavily upon Icelandic sources and seems to present credible answers.

Stepping-stones: A Journey through the Ice Age Caves of the Dordogne by Christine Desdemaines-Hugon Yale University Press, 2010. Art from ancient Ice Age

haunts comes to life under the capable pen of this eminent scholar of prehistoric anthropology and cave art. The stepping stones are but five sites from this rich region deftly connected to works of contemporary modern art.

To borrow one of these books from the NEARA library, email Anne at awirkkala@ccsnh.edu and visit the library page <http://www.nhti.edu/library/index.html> to see the whole collection.

INDIAN MOUNDS OF WISCONSIN by R. A. Birmingham and L. E. Eisenberg, (isbn 978-029916874-2, U. of Wisconsin Press, 1990) Reviewed by Fred Martin. This concrete and intelligible survey presents a slice of the prehistory of the eastern woodlands. What happened in Wisconsin probably happened in New England also, and the general influences and trends it reports may help NEARA members as they investigate stone structures. The book starts with a review of post-conquest archaeological history, including coverage of regional investigators and the more general lost race theories, and their demise under the onslaught of Cyrus Thomas at the Smithsonian. Then separate chapters review current understanding of familiar time periods in prehistory.

In the Late Archaic (4000-1500 BC), it was no longer necessary to range long distances, and occupation of seasonal sites began, with domestication of such plants as chenopodium (as done in New England), extension of long-distance trade (particularly in Isle Royale copper), and communal mass graves at what must have been major social centers. Around 1200 BC the Old Copper Culture morphed into the Red Ocher Complex, where red ocher appeared over the ossuaries (think of Maine's Red Paint people), and the offerings were large ceremonial chipped-stone blades rather than copper tools. After 500 BC pottery appeared, and the region participated in the Adena tradition. and from 100-300 AD it became part of the Hopewell Interaction Sphere with its bear ceremonialism (as some think New England did), trading with the major Hopewell sites in Ohio and Indiana. Along the Mississippi River, Hopewell mound groups (but no large earthworks) occur every 12 miles, some containing rectangular pits or "stone crypts," that were reentered when new burials were necessary. One is reminded of Salvatore Trento's conclusion that it is likely that some of New England's stone chambers were once used as crypts.

When the stratified Hopewell empire faded into a more egalitarian society around 500 AD, the bow and arrow appeared, and corn was introduced from the South. The state embarked on its most spectacular period of Effigy Mound Building, shapes also depicted in pottery, and expressive of traditional Algonquian belief. They are divided into sky (bird and thunderbird), earth (bear and bear-like), and underworld (long-tailed panther, lizard,

and turtle) images, and are thought to correspond with the clans prevalent in Algonquian societies. Effigy mounds often contain a single burial, a stone "altar" and a stone "cist," and grave goods that are simple and few.

After 1000 AD, the region became part of what might be called the Cahokia interaction sphere. The Aztalan large platform mound was built in the Mississippian style. The local people seem to have formed the Oneota culture, remaining after the end of Middle Mississippian culture with the fall of Cahokia around 1200 AD.. The Oneota did not build mounds, but made individual burials in flat cemeteries. They are probable ancestors of the modern Sioux-speaking Winnebago and Algonquian-speaking Menominee tribes.

The book closes with remarks on the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act of 1990, and particularly on Wisconsin's Burial Sites Protection Law of 1985. By law the mounds as well as farm family plots are classified as defined grave sites with a buffer zone of 5 feet, and in some counties 25 feet. "Once catalogued, these burial locations 'run with the land' and are identified in every title search of the property," and gain a tax exemption in proportion to size. The authors write: "Today, most landowners are thrilled and fascinated to have an Indian mound or mound group on their property and consider themselves to be stewards of a special part of Wisconsin history." Would it were so for the stone chambers and stone walls of New England!

extra@nbeam.com

Tracing Norumbega on Early Maps of the Americas is the theme of the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Discoveries in Portland, Maine, September 22-25, 2011. Details will be on their website by early summer www.sochistdisc.org

Writer/editor Jack Dempsey invites us to visit www.ancientlights.org a collaborative celebration of Western heritage in early America and ancient Crete.

Lauren Jackson, a new friend who is a librarian, has alerted us to a website with links to many online sources <http://guidetoonlineschools.com/library/archaeology-resource>

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAS AND ABROAD

PEOPLING OF THE AMERICAS The lead article in *American Archaeology*, Winter 2010-11, is about another pre-Clovis site in Alaska—Broken Mammoth. David Yesner is one of a new generation of Alaska archaeologists finding sites with hearths, excellent preservation of organic material and 13- 14,000 dates. Whether these people were ancestral to the Clovis culture is still controversial; they lack fluted points. RS

130,000 YEAR OLD STONE TOOLS have been found on the island of Crete. Reported in the January/February 2011 issue of *Archaeology*, archaeologists say they could be as old as 700,000 years and that early human ancestors would have had the ability to boat across 40 miles of open water. *Antiquity September 2010* also reports on "The earlier Neolithic in Cyprus: recognition of a Pre-Pottery Neolithic A occupation beginning around 9,000 BC. RS

NEW LIGHT ON NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION The old notion of the major change from hunting to herding and from gathering to cultivation is now changing. In *Antiquity 2010*, Trevor Watkins rejects farming as an adaptation necessitated by climate change and shows that as early as 23,000 BC there is evidence for settlements that did not grow crops or make pottery. Some of the spectacular early sites such as Gobekli Tepe in southeastern Turkey (9,500 BC) once thought to be settlements, now appear to be artificially mounded sites that were subsequently reworked. Watkins says that "the cognitive and cultural revolution made possible the symbolic construction of the first, large, permanent communities; this unleashed population growth that led in turn to the adoption of farming practices." RS

THE ORIGINS OF METALLURGY IN CENTRAL ITALY in *Antiquity September 2010* Andrea Dolfini "dates human bone in graves with metal artifacts and shows that copper, antimony and silver were being fashioned into daggers and beads in west central Italy by the early to mid fourth millennium BC." The Ligurian area had some of the best copper deposits at the time, before tin was added to make bronze. RS

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CLOVIS in the January 2011 issue of *Mammoth Trumpet* (Vol. 26, No.1) is the first installment of a proposed series that will discuss "what is Clovis and what is not." The past 10 years have seen an incredible advance in the amount of well documented information from across the country, with the remarkably narrow range of 10,765-11,125 RCYBP. Many questions remain, since toolkits are not always similar. RS
PATAGONIAN ROCK ART has been reported for the first time in a French-Chilean expedition and published in the *International Newsletter on Rock Art INORA* No. 58 2010. "This is the first discovery of parietal art that can be unambiguously attributed to the Kaweskar Indians, a nomadic sea people now vanished." The cave on the coast of the Madre de Dios Island is about -50 degrees latitude, very near the tip of Terra del Fuego where early explorers described the Alakaluf Indians as very primitive, using canoes and rough skin clothing but with no knowledge of metal. Amazingly, the 2006-2008 expedition made contact with three people in their 70s who knew of the cave and had engaged in sea lion hunting years ago. RS



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April 29 –May 1, 2011
Best Western Merry Manor Inn
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207-774-6151

See Ros Strong's report on p. 5 and the meeting notice coming soon for details

*Watch the website for information about the November, 2011,
meeting in Vermont*

