

# Federal Archeology

## REPORT

December 1988, Vol. 1, No. 3



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National Park Service • Archeological Assistance Division • Washington, D.C.

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION

#### Listing of Outlaw Treachery: LOOT CLEARINGHOUSE

During FY 1987, the Archeological Assistance Division of the National Park Service established a clearinghouse of information about cases in which looting and vandalism of archeological resources on public lands were prosecuted. These are summary records which are being entered into a computer-based clearinghouse called the Listing of Outlaw Treachery (LOOT). The objective is to provide a central place for those seeking information on looting and vandalism prosecutions. At present there are more than 80 case summaries received with approximately 30 of those records entered.

While combating the problem of looting and vandalism on Federal land has been a major issue, beginning with legislation in 1889 to protect and repair Casa Grande, it is only recently that systematic efforts to evaluate the problem have been undertaken. One of the latest was the report, *Cultural Resources: Problems Protecting and Preserving Federal Archeological Resources*, published in December, 1987, by the General Accounting Office (GAO). It is available from GAO at no cost by requesting the title and report number, GAO/RCED-88-3. (Address: Post Office Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20877; telephone: (202) 275-6241.) The Archeological Assistance Division collects statistical information about the nature of looting and vandalism on Federal land for the Secretary of the Interior's report to Congress on Federal archeological activities. This information is collected with the cooperation of Federal agencies and is most detailed beginning with FY 1985. It includes data on the number of reported incidents, the number of arrests or citations, and the number of criminal prosecutions.

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### SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY Loretta Neumann, SAA Washington Representative

#### CONGRESS LEAVES LEGACY FOR ARCHEOLOGY

In the last few hours of the 100th Congress, several bills were passed which will benefit archeology and protect archeological sites. The Society for American Archaeology's (SAA) Government Affairs Committee, chaired by Cheryl Ann Munson, took a leading role in helping assure the passage of these bills. Behind the scenes work by Loretta Neumann and Kathleen Reinberg (SAA - Foresight) was crucial. The four bills listed as follows have passed both the House and Senate (as of October 20) and have been sent to the President for signature into law:

**Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) Amendments** - There were two different bills enacted. The first, introduced by Senators Domenici (R-NM) and Bingaman (D-NM), directs the Department of the Interior (DOI), the Forest Service and other Federal agencies to develop plans and a schedule to survey archeological resources and a process for reporting suspected incidents of looting archeological resources on those lands. A second bill, introduced in the House by Rep. Gejdenson (D-CT) with the support of Rep. Vento (D-MN), and in the Senate by Sen. Domenici (R-NM), lowers the felony threshold for ARPA violations to \$500, makes the attempt to loot or vandalize a crime, and requires Federal agencies to develop public awareness programs.

**Poverty Point National Monument** - Introduced by Rep. Huckaby (D-LA), the bill allows acquisition of 400 acres of State-owned land and 1,000 acres of private land in Louisiana and establishes Poverty Point as a unit of the National Park System. The area contains significant remains of human habitation dating to A.D. 600-1000.

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## LOOT CLEARINGHOUSE

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Preliminary analyses of these data show that there are ten to fifteen times the number of reported incidents of looting and vandalism as compared to arrests made or citations given. Even fewer of those cases are prosecuted and result in criminal convictions. Additionally, the number of reported incidents are increasing while the number of prosecutions remain about the same. Improved information collection may be the basis for increases in the numbers of reported incidents, but this does not mitigate what seems to be the general trend--very few incidents are discovered in time to apprehend the looters or vandals, much less prevent damage to the archeological sites. Preliminary evaluation of newly reported figures for FY 1987 indicates that this trend continues.

Many solutions to the problem have been proposed. One of the most important is to improve incident documentation and information exchange on cases. A major objective of such efforts should be to effectively coordinate law enforcement and archeological resource protection on a regional, interagency basis. The LOOT clearinghouse is designed to be this kind of information exchange.

A copy of the LOOT clearinghouse reporting form is enclosed in this issue of the *REPORT*. We are asking for your cooperation in completing this form. It may be reproduced and used as often as necessary to submit information to the clearinghouse. Completed forms may be sent to George S. Smith, Archeological Assistance Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

### Partial List of Prosecutions LOOT CLEARINGHOUSE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Location</u>
1977	FS	Tonto National Forest, AZ
1981	FS	San Juan National Forest, CO
1981	BLM	South Warner Valley, OR
1982	FS	Coconino National Forest, AZ
1983	NPS	Mesa Verde National Park, CO
1983	FWS	Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, OR
1983	BLM	Lonetree, WY
1983	BIA	Navajo Nation, AZ
1984	NPS	Richmond Battlefield Park, VA
1984	NPS	Petersburg National Battlefield, VA
1984	FS	Manti Lasal National Forest, UT
1984	FS	Shawnee National Forest, IL
1984	BIA	Santa Ana Pueblo, NM
1984	NPS	Gulf Islands National Seashore, FL
1985	BLM	Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, ID
1985	FBI	Chicago, IL
1985	BIA	Acoma Pueblo, NM
1986	NPS	Biscayne National Park, FL
1986	BLM	Malheur County, OR
1986	FS	Chippewa National Forest, NM
1986	BIA	Utah and Ouray, Fort Duchesne, UT
1986	BIA	Navajo Nation, AZ
1986	FS	Cleveland National Forest, CA
1987	FS	St. Francis National Forest, AR
1987	NPS	Fredericksburg National Battlefield, VA
1987	NPS	Channel Island National Park, CA



*View of the looted 25 acres of late prehistoric burials and deposits at Slack Farm, KY. Archeologists are shown recording damage and recovering scattered remains. (Spring, 1988) Photo by Bennie C. Keel.*



*Archeologist recovering stratigraphic information within a pit that had been gouged by looters taking artifacts from Slack Farm. Photo by Bennie C. Keel.*

## CULTURAL MATERIALS RESOURCE LIST

For the last several years, museum professionals, anthropologists and archaeologists have been debating issues surrounding the care, handling, and disposition of American Indian materials, such as objects associated with religious beliefs and practices, and human skeletal remains. Increasing requests by tribal peoples for the recovery or repatriation of cultural property or sacred objects, for the reburial of ancestral remains from museums, archeological collections and sites, as well as a heightened dialogue within the museum, archeological and anthropological professions, have given these issues a prominence that demands attention from all parties concerned. A resource list, *American Indian Sacred Objects, Skeletal Remains, Repatriation and Reburial*, is available which offers a wide range of references over the spectrum of opinions and actions on these issues. The current list does not include references to judicial actions, regulations, and legislative propositions or to the vast and increasing number of ephemeral articles in newspapers on these issues. Though there are a few references to questions of international concern, for the most part, this list is restricted to North America and to American Indian materials and issues. The resource list is available from **Rayna Green, Director of the American Indian Program, Room 52119 NMAH, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560; telephone: (202) 357-2071.**

## CORPS OF ENGINEERS ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION PROGRAM, Portland District

In response to the ongoing problem of vandalism to cultural resources on its reservoirs, the Corps of Engineers, Portland District, implemented a multi-faceted Archeological Resources Protection Program in April 1986. The District office manages hundreds of archeological sites along its reservoirs on the Columbia, Willamette, and Rogue Rivers in the States of Oregon and Washington.

The program's effort focuses on two approaches to the problem: law enforcement and education. The former is a short-term solution that deals with vandalism generally after it occurs, while the latter is a long-term, more preventive answer that addresses the problem of vandalism at its root.

The law enforcement effort consists of training field personnel, coordinating with outside (i.e., State, county, local, other Federal) law enforcement agencies, patrolling and monitoring of archeological sites, placing signs to inform the public about the illegality of vandalizing archeological sites, creating a staff position for a Criminal Investigator, and issuing a news release on the District's campaign against archeological vandalism.

Educational efforts are directed toward the understanding that resources belong to the public as a whole, not to any one individual. The objective of the program is to educate the public about the importance of cultural resources and the reasons for their preservation. Speaking engagements have been made to local groups, articles published in various printed media, interpretive exhibits developed, and interviews/news stories conducted on local radio and television stations.

The Corps has developed a combination brochure/poster, *Preserving Our Cultural Heritage*, which it has distributed to the public. In addition, the participation of visitors to protect cultural resources on the reservoirs has been solicited. Visitors are requested to leave artifacts and archeological sites undisturbed, and to report violations to the nearest Corps field office. The message conveyed to the public is: Please enjoy, but don't destroy, our nation's cultural heritage.

For further information contact: **Robert Freed, NPPPL-NR, P.O. Box 2946, Portland, OR 97208; telephone: (503) 221-4974.**

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## CONGRESS LEAVES LEGACY FOR ARCHEOLOGY

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**Zuni-Cibola National Historical Park** - Introduced by Senators Bingaman (D-NM) and Domenici (R-NM) and Rep. Richardson (D-NM), it establishes the Zuni-Cibola National Historical Park in New Mexico. It also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the land for the park by donation and to manage it as a unit of the National Park System.

The fiscal year appropriations act for the DOI and related agencies has been signed into law. It includes funds for the Historic Preservation Fund, the National Register and archeological programs of the National Park Service, and for cultural resources programs of other Federal land managing agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service.

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### SAVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE: an Anti-Looting Project

by Loretta Neumann

It is no secret that site looting is increasing at an alarming rate. Bennie Keel and his staff in the Archeological Division of the National Park Service have done a great job in gathering information and coordinating efforts to stem the looting. But they, and other Federal agencies, simply cannot solve this problem alone.

Recognizing the need for involvement of professional and avocational archeologists, the Society for American Archaeology has begun a year long project called "Saving the Past for the Future." The project will address why archeological looting occurs, determine ways to reduce looting, provide for public education, and ultimately, better protect America's archeological heritage. It will include not only Federal land but also State, local, Indian and private land. It will emphasize the national scope of the problem and the fact that historical as well as prehistoric sites are affected.

To carry out the project, the SAA is seeking support from Federal and State agencies, private organizations,

corporate and non-profit foundations and other interested groups. The project will include a plenary session, open to all interested persons, during the SAA annual meeting in April, 1989, in Atlanta and a focused, by invitation-only, working conference in New Mexico in May. Dr. James Judge of Fort Burgwin Research Center in Taos, NM, is the conference director. Kathleen Reinburg and Loretta Neumann are the project director and administrator, respectively.

A planning committee, chaired by Dr. Annetta Cheek, will provide advice and policy guidance during the course of the project, including recommendations for topics, speakers and participants for the sessions in Atlanta and New Mexico. The project is meant to be "action-forcing"--linking a variety of products and programs that will continue after the project itself is over. These will include public education materials, a traveling exhibit and a short video, conference proceedings, executive summaries, and brochures.

For further information on this or other activities of the SAA Office of Government Relations, contact **Kathleen Reinburg** or **Loretta Neumann** at (202) 833-2322.



### NOTES...NOTES...NOTES

#### ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION, Washington Office

Veletta Canouts [Ph.D., Anthropology, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1986; M.A., Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1971] joined the staff of the Archeological Assistance Division, Washington Office, on October 11, 1988. For the past three years, she has been a Visiting Scientist at the Conservation Analytical Laboratory, Smithsonian Institution, where she and her colleagues have been investigating Hopi ceramic production and exchange (A.D. 1300-1890). She worked previously in cultural resource management programs at the Arizona State Museum, the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, and the Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University. In addition to providing technical assistance for various divisional operations, she will oversee and coordinate the development and use of the National Archeological Database. **Veletta Canouts** can be reached at (202) 343-4101.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES BRANCH of THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, Washington Office

The Staff of the Planning Division, Environmental Resources Branch of the Corps of Engineers (COE), Washington headquarters, has been increased with an additional Environmental Planner, Paul Rubenstein. Paul is an archeologist who was recruited from the COE, Savannah District, where he was Chief of the Compliance Analysis Section. One of his new responsibilities will be to serve as technical advisor to the Corps' districts and divisions on cultural resources matters. He will succeed Jim Hand, an Environmental Manager at the COE, Washington headquarters, who has served as the cultural resources coordinator for the past four years. An ecologist by profession, Jim Hand now will devote more time to environmental impact assessment and computerized data management.

**Paul Rubenstein** can be reached at (202) 272-8731. **Jim Hand's** phone number is (202) 272-8732.

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### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

#### Cultural Resources Training

The University of Nevada-Reno (UNR) offers a program of graduate-level continuing education short courses in cultural resources management. The courses are designed specifically for historic preservation and cultural resources management professionals working in government agencies, museums, or the private sector, as well as others working in related fields such as city or county planning or real estate. All classes are, however, open to any individual with at least a bachelor's degree in anthropology or a related field.

A workshop entitled, "**Exhibit Design**," is scheduled for **January 9-13, 1989**. Topics include development, design, and implementation techniques of effective public education and public service exhibits for agencies, libraries, and small museums.

A workshop entitled, "**Historic Cans and Bottles: Identification and Contexts**," is scheduled for **January 16-19**. It focuses on the identification and analysis of "index artifact" tin cans and bottles found on historic archeological sites.

A seminar entitled, "**Contemporary Archaeological Theory**," is scheduled for **January 3-6, 1989**. The seminar is designed as a refresher course for CRM and other professionals who wish to remain abreast of recent developments in archeological theory and its applications.

Further information is available from: **Dr. Don Fowler** or **Susan Rodriguez** at (702) 784-6851. To register for workshops and/or seminar, call the **Division of Continuing Education** at (702) 784-4046.

#### Conservation in Field Archaeology

Only a small percentage of the few thousand individuals professionally trained worldwide in conservation specialize in conserving archeological objects, and an even smaller percentage participate in field expeditions to assist in the on-site care of archeological heritage. The increasing exposure of archeological sites to the deteriorating factors of environmental pollution and human intervention, coupled with an increase in scientific knowledge concerning conservation materials and techniques, have led to a growing awareness of the needs throughout the world to properly protect archeological objects. These two urgent problems show there is a need for appropriate conservation training for

field archeologists. In cooperation with the Institute of Archaeology of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), the Getty Conservation Institute has developed a short course entitled, "**Conservation in Field Archeology**," to introduce conservation considerations to field archeologists.

The course emphasizes the role of conservation in improving the rate of recovery of information as well as the long-term preservation of excavated materials. Topics covered include advanced planning for conservation; on-site storage and treatment areas; supplies and equipment; and physical, chemical, and biological causes of decay. Half-day sessions are devoted to the conservation of specific materials and objects such as ceramics, metals, coins, glass, and wet and dry organic materials. Preventive conservation methods are examined with regard to the state of preservation of the excavated materials and the geographic and climatic conditions of the environment. General treatment methods such as lifting, molding and casting, and documentation procedures are reviewed. Because archeological materials are often stored for long periods of time, the need for appropriate materials for use in packing and storage is stressed.

Case studies of *in situ* archeological conservation are also presented to underscore the importance and inherent value of the object when conservators and archeologists collaborate.

This course will be held at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, on **April 4-7, 1989**. While there is no course fee, there are only limited places available through selection from the applicants. Application forms must be returned by January 1, 1989. They are available by contacting **Nicholas Stanley Price, Getty Conservation Institute, 4503 Glencoe Avenue, Marina Del Ray, CA 90292-6537; telephone: (213) 822-2299**.

#### Rock Art Site Protection and Management

The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) is also offering a course entitled, "**Rock Art Site Protection and Management**." It will be held at the Institute on **April 24-28, 1989**. By the end of the course, participants will be able to develop criteria for evaluating rock art sites, assess their significance, and establish priorities for their preservation. They will be able to design a management plan that includes site interpretation and visitor policies.

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### TRAINING

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The course is structured to address the needs of those responsible for national and state parks, public lands, museums, as well as consultants in rock art research. Again, there is no course fee, but there are only limited places available through selection from the applicants. Application forms may be obtained from GCI at the address and telephone given above. They must be returned by February 15, 1989.

layman's terms and include explanatory examples from other State programs. Topics covered include identification of archeological resources; discussion of conservation easements, zoning, and preservation ordinances to protect sites; the roles of local preservation commissions; and where to go for additional help. Copies of the handbook are available from the **Connecticut Historical Commission/State Historic Preservation Office, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106**. For further information call **David Poirier**, staff archeologist, at **(202) 566-3005**.

### CONNECTICUT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION HANDBOOK

The Connecticut Historical Commission and State Historic Preservation Office have published a handbook to guide interested persons or local governments in taking action to develop effective archeological resources protection programs. It is based upon information gathered from individuals and communities throughout the country. The fourteen chapters are written in

### INTERNATIONAL MAILING LIST

International information exchange about public archeology and the Federal archeology program is also an objective for publication in the *Federal Archeology REPORT*. The Archeological Assistance Division is maintaining a list of foreign professionals who have expressed a desire to be kept informed about Federal archeological issues and programs. This list currently includes about forty persons in Europe, Africa, and Australia, and is expanding.

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