

The Old Mobile Project Newsletter

Issue 10

Spring 1994

DuPont-Archaeological Conservancy Preservation Easement under Negotiation

In November, Francine Cheeseman, manager of the E.I. DuPont de Nemours plant in Axis, Alabama, announced that her company was negotiating with The Archaeological Conservancy to establish an archaeological easement for the portion of the Old Mobile site on DuPont property. The Archaeological Conservancy is a national non-profit conservation organization dedicated to preserving archaeological sites. Since it was formed in 1980, The Archaeological Conservancy has acquired endangered ruins and sites across the United States, including the Hopewell Mound Group in Ohio, the 11,000 year-old Borax Lake site in California, and a campsite of the sixteenth-century Spanish conquistador, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, in New Mexico. Their recently-opened Southeastern Regional Office, directed by Bill Kerrigan, quickly identified the Old Mobile site as one of the most important archaeological sites for the study of colonial America that still remains in private hands.

At DuPont's initiative, the two parties have jointly issued a letter of intent to protect the DuPont portion of the site. Because there exists no legal precedent of archaeological easements in Alabama, negotiations continue to reach an arrangement that will insure the permanent preservation of the site. Once an agreement is reached, probably within a few months, the DuPont archaeological easement will provide a model to follow for the other Old Mobile landowners, as well as providing a preservation tool that can be applied elsewhere in Alabama and neighboring states.

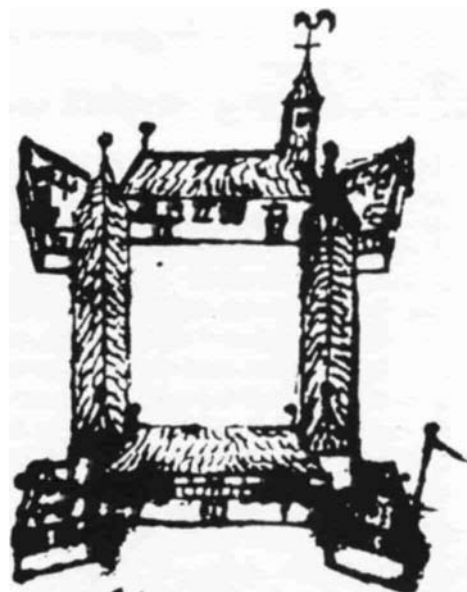
An archaeological easement is designed to prevent any damage to archaeological artifacts and features, while permitting the landowner to continue using their land in nondestructive ways. In the case of the DuPont plant in Axis, an effluent pipeline for treated waste-water presently crosses the archaeological site. This easement also grants The Archaeological Conservancy power to oversee professional research on their portion of the

Old Mobile site. DuPont has pledged to continue making its land available to the University of South Alabama's Old Mobile Archaeology Project. According to Francine Cheeseman, "We have always supported efforts to study the area, and have been looking for some time for an appropriate way to make a permanent commitment to its preservation." DuPont's management team should be congratulated for their efforts on behalf of archaeological conservation.

Because this easement does not address the question of public access to the site - access is quite limited at present - the University of South Alabama is continuing its own negotiations with all of the landowners over that separate issue.

Readers of this newsletter may be interested in helping The Archaeological Conservancy in the struggle to "identify, acquire, and preserve the most significant archaeological sites in the United States for future research and to preserve our cultural heritage." Basic membership costs \$25, and their address is: The Archaeological Conservancy, 5301 Central Avenue NE, Suite 1218, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108.

French drummers, 1709, chalk drawing by Antoine Watteau



Louisbourg Artifact Loan



The Old Mobile Project has just received an artifact research collection on loan from the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park in Nova Scotia. The loan was arranged by archaeologists Andree Crepeau and Jim Campbell, at Louisbourg, who assembled a comprehensive selection of French, English, New England, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, and Chinese artifacts that will prove invaluable for comparisons with colonial-era artifacts from the Gulf coast region.

Founded in 1713 as a fishing community on Cape Breton Island, Louisbourg developed into a city of 2000 inhabitants, the colonial capital of Isle Royale and a military bastion guarding the Atlantic approach to the St. Lawrence valley. The fortress was captured twice by British armies, in 1745 and 1758, and finally demolished in 1760. Fortunately, the ruins of Louisbourg remained essentially undisturbed until this century. Like Old Mobile, no modern city sits atop Louisbourg, so in 1961 the Canadian government began to rebuild a large portion of the colonial fortifications and town. Today Louisbourg has been brought back to life, painstakingly reconstructed and authentically peopled by costumed interpreters. Extensive archaeological excavations preceded rebuilding, and the several million artifacts recovered during the two decades of fieldwork are now housed in a state-of-the-art curation facility, which is accessible to visiting scholars.

Among the types of pottery represented in this loan collection are numerous varieties of coarse earthenware plates, bowls, and cooking pots from the Saintonge region of southwestern France, with their distinctive brilliant green lead glaze, which are commonly found at Old Mobile. Rarer forms include storage jars from Biot in southeastern France, stoneware from Normandy and the Beam/Basque regions, and a piece of a salting tub from the Loire valley. Finer earthenwares - mostly tin glazed French faience, English delft, Dutch Delft, and Spanish majolica - comprise another category. This collection has already proved helpful in the ongoing analysis of excavated artifacts from Structures 3, 4, and 5 at Old Mobile. (Incidentally, the report on that phase of the Old Mobile project is still not completed: but writing continues and we hope (or a late spring publication date.)

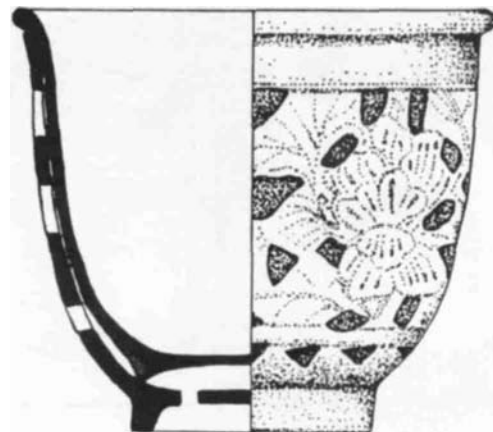
Many thanks to our Canadian colleagues for this study collection loan!

Pensacola-Mobile Trade

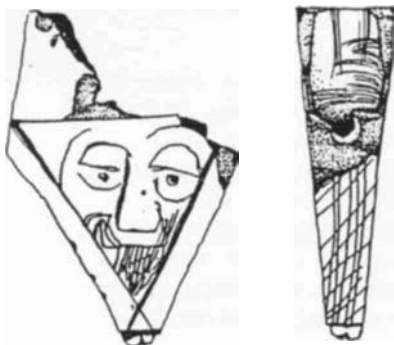
In 1987, archaeologists from the Mobile district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers excavated a small part of Santa Maria de Galve (site 8ES1354), the original Spanish settlement of Pensacola, Florida, dating from 1698 to 1722. The 1992 report by Corps archaeologists Jerry Nielsen, Neil Robison, and Ernie Seckinger on that (fieldwork illustrates a smoking pipe made of red pipestone, with most of a European man's face engraved on one surface. Newsletter readers will recall that many pieces of red pipestone pipes have been found in the excavations at Old Mobile (site 1 MB94), which was contemporary with this earliest location of Pensacola between the years 1702 and 1711.

X-ray diffraction analysis by Dr. James Gundersen and Lillian Pollock at Wichita State University has revealed the sources of the Old Mobile pipestone to be from Minnesota and Kansas. Judging from historical evidence, the French apparently obtained the Minnesota pipestone, called catlinite, by directly visiting the source; the Kansas pipestone must have come via the Native American trade network.

The engraved pipe from Pensacola is the first artifact found there that is attributable to trade with the French at Old Mobile. Hundreds of artifacts from the Old Mobile site are known to be Spanish colonial in origin, and historical documents repeatedly mention trade between the French colonists there and the Spanish ports of Veracruz, Havana, and Pensacola. This new discovery suggests that further archaeological investigation of the first site of Pensacola could shed more light on the inter-colonial trade and smuggling that was essential for both colonies' survival during the first decade of the eighteenth century.



Chinese porcelain tea cup. excavated from 1MB94, Structure 3 Blanc de Chine style, double-walled cup with open-work outer wall. from Fukien Province, Kangxi Period: 3/4 scale. (Cross section drawing by Jo Ann Slalen.)



Smoking pipe with engraved human face decoration, made of red pipestone, excavated at site 8ES1354. Santa Maria de Galve, first location of Spanish Pensacola, 1698-1722. Approximately life size. (From a report prepared by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Resources Planning Section, Mobile District, 1992.)

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French Colonial Historical Society

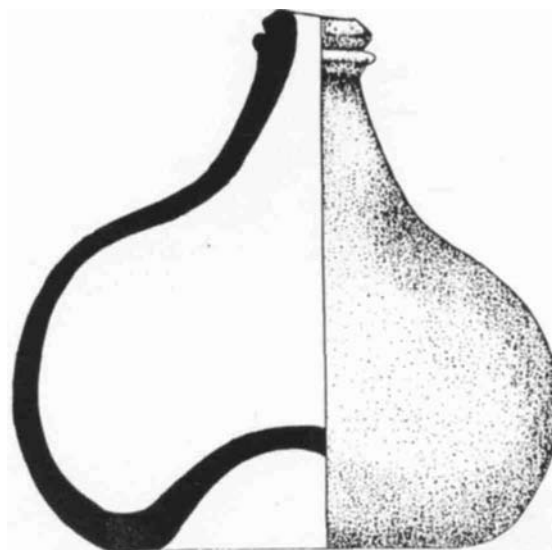
The twentieth annual meeting of the **French Colonial Historical Society** (in Cleveland, Ohio, May 18-21, 1994) will, as usual, include many presentations relevant to French colonial "Louisiane." A few of the thirty-two scheduled speakers include Ken Banks ("Power and Communication in Three French Colonial Towns. 1713-1763"); Peter Laurence Cook, ("The Agents of Intercultural Diplomacy on New France's Western Frontier, 1703-1725"); Carl Ekberg ("Culture Clash on the Mississippi Frontier: French Creoles and AngloAmericans"); Michael James Foret ("The White War of Words: Offensive European Diplomacy in Southeastern North America"), Peter Goddard ("The Devil in New France"), Cornelius Jaenen ("Regeneration or Degeneration: XVIIIth and XVIIIth Century French Views on the Effects of Colonization"), Gregory Waselkov ("Intercolonial Trade and Smuggling on the Gulf of Mexico, circa 1710"); and Joseph Wilkins ("Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville: A Military Appraisal"). For further information, write or call Dr. William I. Shorrock, Department of History, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Interesting Publications

A few years ago several archaeologists in Quebec City began publishing *Memoires Vives: Revue Quebecoise d'Archeologie Historique*. Today this very attractive, heavily illustrated magazine is the only journal specifically devoted to the historical archaeology of French colonial America. Recent issues have contained articles on excavations of the Intendant's Palace, the fortifications of Quebec, and archaeological theory, as well as annotated bibliographies and book reviews. Foreign subscriptions to the journal, which is published three times a year, cost \$18.00 (or individuals and \$30.00 for institutions (in Canadian dollars), from: Groupe PGV Diffusion de l'archeologie, 5846 rue Cartier, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2G 2V2.

Another Canadian-related publication may appeal to our newsletter readers. Andrew Faliup and Donald F. Shatter have written *La Marine: The French Colonial Soldier in Canada, 1745-1761* (1992; Heritage Books, Bowie, Maryland).

Of course, as the segment in this newsletter on Spanish trade indicates, the French colonists in North America had considerable contact and competition with other Europeans during the colonial period. The Southwestern Mission Research Center publishes an excellent newsletter on Spanish colonial history and archaeology. A subscription costs \$10.00 per year, payable to SMRC, from Nicholas Bleser, P.O. Box 213, Tumacacón, Arizona 85640.



English glass wine bottle, excavated from IMB94, Structure 3: 1/2 scale. (Cross section drawing by Jo Ann Slalen).

*The Friends of Old Mobile are Pleased
to Welcome the Following New and
Renewing Members:*



Conrad P. Armbrrecht, Mobile, At
Dr. James Axtell, Williamsburg, VA
Mr. & Mrs. John D. Baumhauer, Mobile, AL
Mr. Palmer Bedsole Jr., Mobile, AL
Ann Bedsole, Mobile, AL
Ray L. Bellande, Ocean Springs, MS
Mrs. Amiel W. Bnnkley. Jr., Mobile, AL
Pauline Page Butler., New Orleans, LA
Mrs. Robert L. Byrd. Jr., Mobile, AL
Stephen M. Cain, Axis, AL
William B. Carpenter. Jr., Mobile, AL
Dr. & Mrs. William Case, Mobile, AL
Mrs. Eleanor P. Cummings, Mobile, AL
Barney & Sade Cutchen, Spanish Fort, AL
Caldwell Delaney, Mobile, AL
Ann W. Delchamps, Mobile, AL
Bernard J. Diamond. Jr., Mobile, AL
Francis F. Escoffier, Mobile, AL
Dr. & Mrs. S.C. Ferguson, Mobile, AL
Jo Ann Flirt, Mobile, AL
Mrs. Hilda Fuller, Mobile, AL
Delon Gipson, Bay Minette, AL
Bessie T. Goude-lock, Mobile, AL
Robert E. Graveline, Palmer, MA
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Mr. & Mrs. Dwain G. Luce, Mobile, AL
Mrs. William H. March. Jr., Mobile, AL
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Gloria S. Moran, Pass Chnstian, MS
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Norman A. Nicholson, Mobile, AL
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Dr. & Mrs. R.B. PfeiMer, Jr., Mobile, AL
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Dr. & Mrs. Earl B Wert, Mobile, AL
Jo Ann S. Wheelis, Mobile, AL
Helen Wilson, Mobile, AL
Dr Peter H. Wood, Hillsborough, NC
Richard Wnght, Mobile, AL

