

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CENTRAL NEW YORK BULLETIN

ARCHAEOLOGY
HISTORY



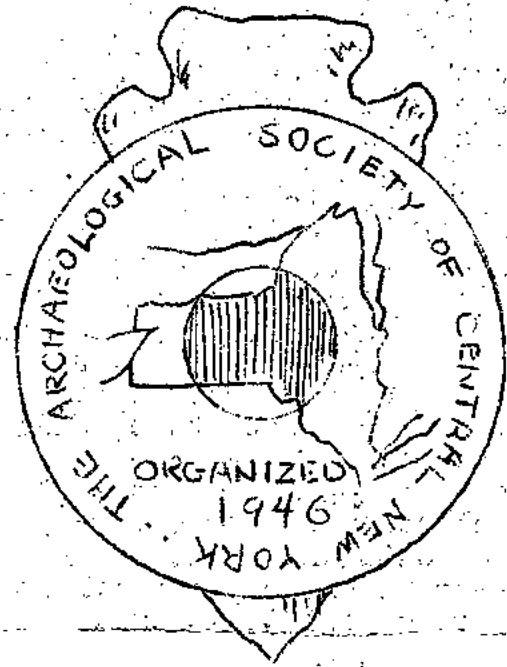
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ZAPOTEC ORNAMENT

The BULLETIN of the Archaeological Society of Central New York is published monthly, except during July and August, in the interest of all phases of archaeological and historical endeavor pertaining to central New York State. Regular meetings of the A. S. C. N. Y. are convened at 8:00 P.M. on the second Thursday of each month at the Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Auburn, N. Y.

The A.S.C.N.Y. is affiliated with the Division of Anthropology of Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Auburn, N. Y.

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ROCHESTER JUNCTION

By Charles Wray

The Seneca nation, most powerful of all the Iroquois, stood in the path of French ambition. Thus it was in the early Fall of 1687 a French punitive expedition under the command of General DeNonville composed of several thousand French and their Indian allies descended upon the stubborn and arrogant Seneca. One of the main objectives of this force was the Seneca capital Totiakton, or Sonontuan as it was called by the French. Taken by surprise and being no match for the invading army, the Seneca after one small skirmish near Victor, N.Y., burned their villages and fled.

~~Today modern streamline trains roar past the site of this forgotten town and thunder to a stop at what is now known as Rochester Junction. The farmers plow has long ago wiped away nearly all visible trace of this great capital of the Seneca, a town which boasted of 120 longhouses and perhaps a thousand or more inhabitants. Stately rows of corn, one of the Indians gifts to the white man, now often grow over his village and burial grounds.~~

Many of history's important men trod the forrest paths to this town bringing presents to its chieftans, to preach the gospel to its people, and to obtain permission and guides for exploring the wilderness to the west. The names of some of these explorers of the new world were: LaSalle, Wentworth Greenhalg, and the Jesuit fathers James Fremin, Rene Galinee and Julien Garnier. (Galinee, however, was not a Jesuit. - added footnote by Follett)

To this village were brought many hapless prisoners of the Senecas wars of conquest and extermination from distant tribes in the south and west. Some were to be adopted, some to become slaves, and others to meet their fate at the hands of expert torturers.

This past Spring, Mr. Harry Schoff and the author obtained the kind permission of the Dessman family to continue their explorations began several years ago on one of the cemeteries of this village. Some 95 graves were excavated, bringing the total in that particular cemetery to nearly 175. A map of the cemetery was carefully prepared and notes were taken on every grave. Both black and white and color photographs were made of some of the important graves.

Besides the recovery of some interesting specimens, much valuable information was obtained. In nearly every

grave the skeletons were oriented with their heads to the west. Half of the burials were made in the typical Indian fashion - flexed on their sides, while the other half were made in the extended position. More than 90% of the graves had been anciently looted of their useful contents - such as wampum, glass beads, brass kettles, and apparently perfect pipes. The remaining native-made material was left behind scattered in the grave fill. This looting was done sometime shortly after the burials were made. The graves were left unmolested long enough for the brass kettles to stain bone and preserve organic material yet not so long that ligaments no longer connected some of the bones. The fact that these looters were primarily in quest of wampum and glass beads is proven by the occasional occurrence of beads in the dirt inside the skulls while none or merely a few remained scattered in the grave fill. All of these looted graves were capped by an unbroken layer of dark humus or forrest mould resulting from the accumulation of organic material in the depressions over these graves prior to the clearing of the land and its subsequent cultivation.

Relatively few male skeletons were discovered - this might suggest that some of the men probably died while away from home. The undisturbed graves of men usually contained one or more pipes, either of native or European manufacture, flintlock muskets, spare gun parts, fire-making sets, bone and stone tools, kettles of food and frequently belts of wampum. Women, on the other hand, seldom had more than a kettle of food, an iron axe, and occasionally an ornamental antler comb. Children's graves were usually lavishly endowed with beads and ornaments and the usual brass kettle or iron pail of food.

Jesuit material was not as abundant as one might expect on a mission site. Only one grave contained a crucifix and not more than a dozen had rings. Burials of the early 1700's have produced much more Jesuit material than this. This has led Mr. Schoff to theorize that religious emblems were the sole property of their owners and were not given as gifts to the dead by relatives at the time of burial.

The manufacture of pottery was a thing of the past. Only two graves contained any at all. Brass kettles and tin plated iron buckets were apparently easily obtainable. Verifying the date of the site was the discovery of a lead seal bearing the date 1676 and the name of the then Dutch town of Osten. Glass beads are also of use in dating sites. The typical bead of the 1675-1687 period was the round pea sized red or black glass bead. Only a very few

of the older tubular glass beads were found.

Usually quite rare on all earlier sites, ornamental antler combs suddenly became relatively numerous, and interesting examples of this native art were recovered on this site. Many of these were carved to represent animals or humans and were further ornamented by finely engraved lines and geometrical figures. Some of these combs were sketched to illustrate this report. Pottery pipes were not as numerous as the combs but were represented by the common ring bowl and bear effigy types. Also present were the European manufactured pewter and kaolin trade pipes - the latter bearing the initials E.B.

Several skeletons showed evidence of pathology. One had an interestingly deformed skull, another showed enlargement of the leg bones and another showed the results of combat. The point of a flint arrow was imbedded in the right cheek, the jaws injured and the right temple fractured. All were healed showing that this veteran survived his ordeal.

* * * * *

Supplement to Wray Article

By Harrison C. Follett

Inasmuch as the Totiakton Village site may now be considered practically exhausted of burials, and all history known of it has been gathered together over a period of 75 or more years by excavation, and near a hundred years of recorded history, we can now set down the history with authenticity.

The site was first visited for historical purposes by O. H. Marshall, who was accompanied by a Seneca Indian, in an attempt to identify the various sites, for but very few of the Indian sites were then known of in this region. However, it must be considered that in 1845 or 48, one hundred and fifty years after the village was destroyed by the French Army under deNonville, no Indian who formerly lived there would still be living, and therefore the Seneca who accompanied Marshall would depend entirely upon tradition of two or more generations, and as such could not be thoroughly relied upon, and as proven obvious by Marshall's volume in relation to the site southwest of Lima known as the Cleary or Dutch Hollow site which the Seneca told him of the location of the spring he remembered as a boy when he lived there. Proving it error is the

revolution by archaeology, which determines the site to have been occupied about 1625 at the latest. Thus the good Seneca would have been in 1848 about 180 years old.

Again there remains a question as to whether this Totiakton or that of the site on the Dann farm $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest may have been the one identified by the Seneca, as he cited the sunken ground where the Indian burials existed, and the rows across the fields where the Indians grew corn. Spring Creek, which passes around one side of the site like that at Totiakton, which the Indian said was called Trout, meaning the same as Totiakton. This is a question that in some respects requires research beyond that which the writer's facilities permit at this time. However, it is not essential.

Probably the first local written records of the Totiakton site were made by George Harris, who states that the site was visited by Marshall in 1847, which likely can be relied upon as the town previously alluded to in conjunction with the Dann farm site, and that the word Trout as given by the Seneca Indian applies to the Honcoyo Creek which makes an abrupt turn west to the Genesee River at this location.

It is in the town of Mendon, Monroe County, N.Y. two miles northwest of the village of Honcoyo Falls. It has been under cultivation more or less for over 100 years and has yielded large quantities of artifacts from the surface as well as from refuse dumps and graves.

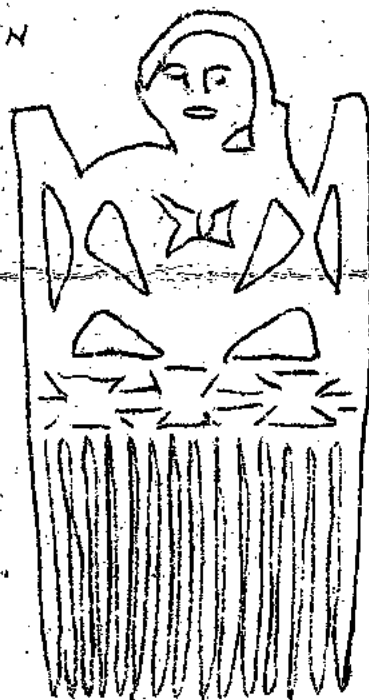
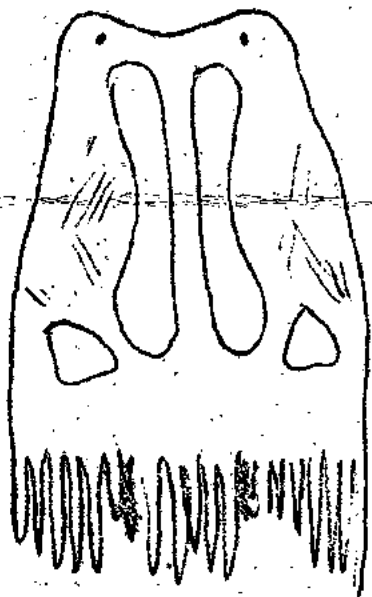
Four or more definitely known burial sites exist. The one probably the least inviting to the archaeologist is that upon the extreme northeast corner of the site which is covered with timber and the soil consists more or less of shale rock, and even the general area is not too easy digging.

Burials unearthed by the writer in early 1900's and by others totaled about 50, and estimating the number excavated in the interim at 30, and those quoted by Wray, brings the total deceased members to close to 300, which classes the site as probably the largest populated site in the Seneca Nation. In the year 1687 it was the head of the Senecas, the title of which the Senecas held forever after. As late as 1779, when the descendants lived at Little Beard's Town near the present Cuylerville, it was known as the main Seneca Castle. In 1750 when the Meravians visited on their formerly occupied site at the junction of the Canasoraga Creek with the Genesee River, it was the Capitol Town, which the Senecas on the site

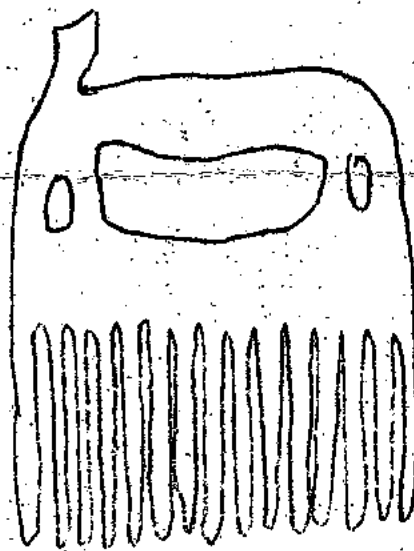
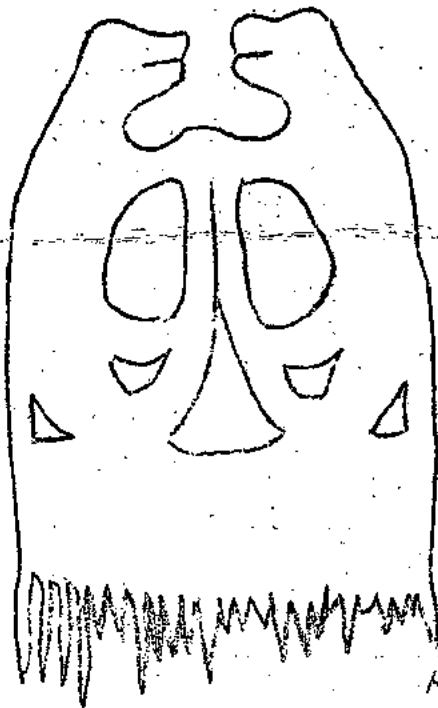
near Geneva, Kanadasaga, did not hold.

A full history of the Totiakton Village site would make a large volume.

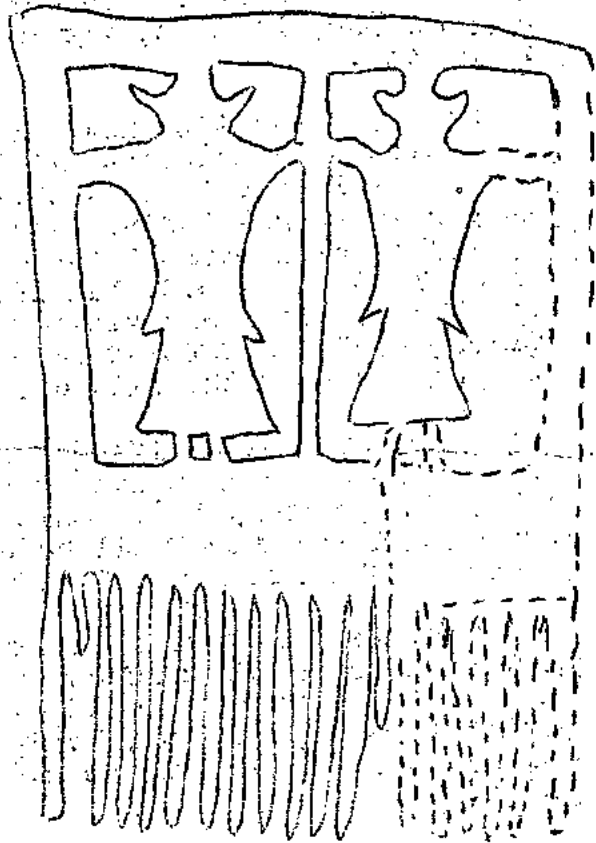
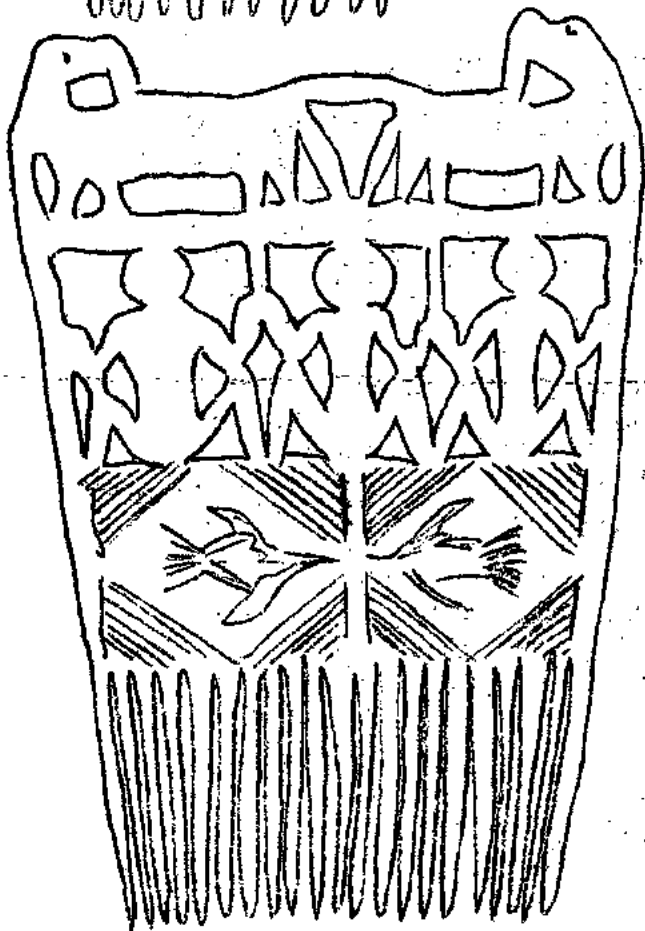
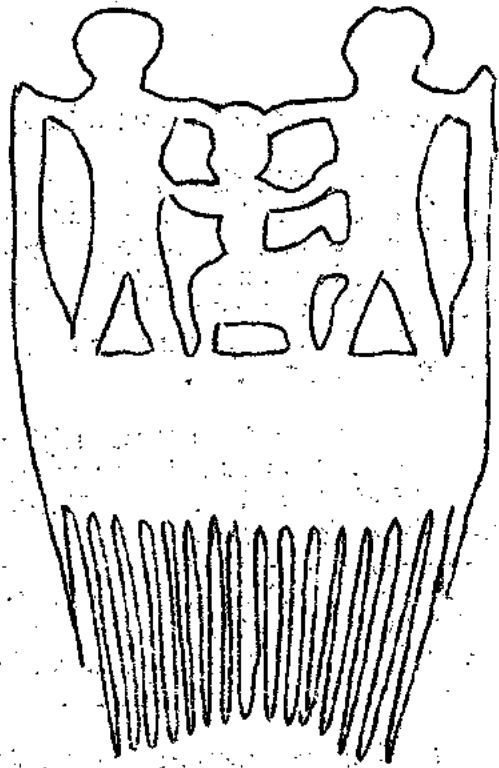
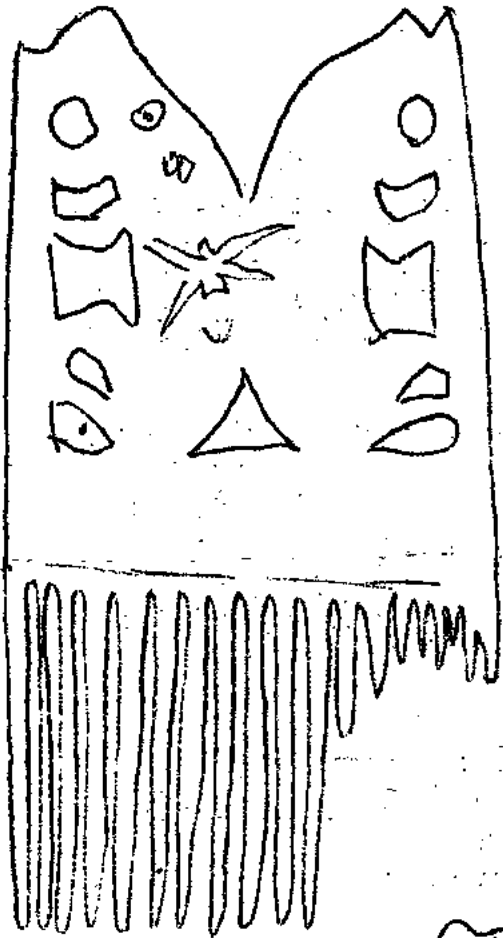
ROCHESTER JUNCTION



ACTUAL SIZE



ANTLER COMBS



ROCHESTER JUNCTION

Communication from Harrison C. Follott

Recent developments in the archaeological field point to the probable fact that the Cayuga Indians of the Genoa Fort site were a group that separated from the Reed Fort site inhabitants of Ontario County and that they entered Cayuga County via the head of Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, instead of originating in Pennsylvania as previously cited by the writer.

Exploration during 1953 is expected to reveal considerable additional information. The Genoa Fort site people preceded the Locke Fort site group into Cayuga County by about 75 years.

A partly sunny day in very early spring resulted in a report by Gordon Wright of a day's surface hunting and the enjoyment he experienced in reading a certain article of the January Bulletin.

Gordon reports a find of 4 triangle arrowpoints, 4 rims (of what?), 2 pieces of brass and a discoidal shell bead. Then going to another site he found more rims, presumably pot-sherds, a pipe stem converted into a bead. Not too bad, he says, for a Sunday when he should have been in church.

Recent authentic analysis of charcoal recovered from a fire pit in the ancient creek channel of the Lamoka Lake Indian village site by Mr. A. Frank Barrott of Elmira, N.Y. proves quite conclusively that the people who first inhabited this place burned wood that existed in the territory circa 3000 years B.C. In 1928, when the writer was exploring the site, he was visited by Dr. Arthur C. Parker, then director of the Rochester Municipal Museum, who advanced the theory that the site was 5000 years old.

The writer spent 15 months in exploration of this site and recovered remnants of the inhabitants who first occupied it. History of the site by the writer is under preparation and in time will be presented to the Archaeological Society of Central New York for publication in the Bulletin.

Later exploration of an area that was not disturbed in 1928 has revealed considerable information heretofore unknown. This, together with unpublished facts will furnish, it is thought, some very interesting reading, in conjunction with the unpublished history of the famous Lovanna site.

The following is an attempt to clarify, if possible, the date in the November, 1952 Bulletin, that cites the

formation of the League of the Iroquois according to Van Wagonan 1552 and by General Clark 1550-1560. The error can well be cleared by noting the authentic exploration made in the Seneca Country and Onondaga and Cayuga Counties.

In the beginning, before a league could have been formed it would be essential that at least some of the Nations involved be settled in the territory long enough to warrant cause for its formation.

The first of the Seneca Nation to enter what is termed the Seneca Country was at the earliest 1525. The second group came in 1550. The Cayugas 1550 and 1585. Champlain's last attack on the Onondagas was in 1615, which was an incentive for the formation of the league. The third and probable cause was the attack by the Andastes on the Cayugas and Senecas in 1600.

The date of the probable formation quoted by Dr. Beauchamp is 1610, and is the nearest correct according to the findings of archaeology. General Clark was not an archaeologist and his many drastic errors in the early history of Cayuga County as well as of Onondaga should be sufficient to ignore his theory. As for VanWagonan, it is needless to state.

Communication from Newton E. Farwell

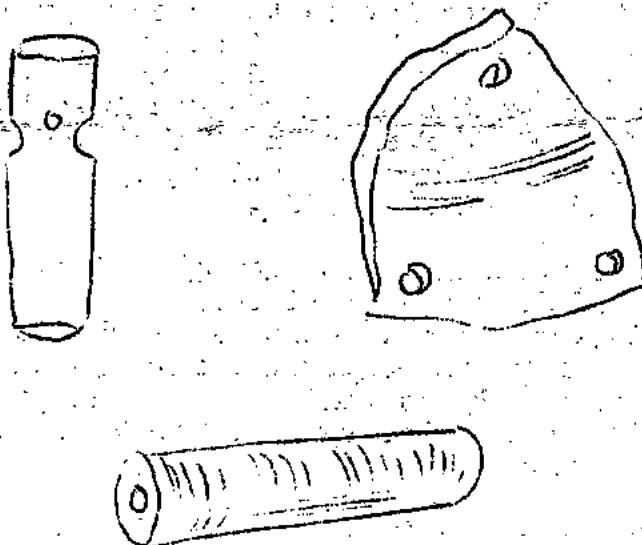
English Research yields missing clues in search of facts regarding Jamestown Glassmaking. From "The Glass Industry" August, 1950. Copyright 1950 by the Ogdon Publishing Co. 55 West 42nd St., New York 18.

"Before the excavation of the site of the Jamestown glasshouse, the little that was known of Jamestown glass making was documentary only. Acquired in 1934 by the Federal Government and made a part of Colonial National Historical Park, the island site of the Jamestown Colony and a portion of the mainland across a narrow inlet where the glasshouse was located has since been closely studied by the National Park Service, but the excavations are not yet open to visitors. Plans call for the eventual opening of the glasshouse to the public as a permanent educational and historical shrine to America's oldest industry.

"In the fall of 1608, glass furnaces had been built and a 'tryall of glasse' sent to England. It was not until 1621 that Captain William Norton brought a number of

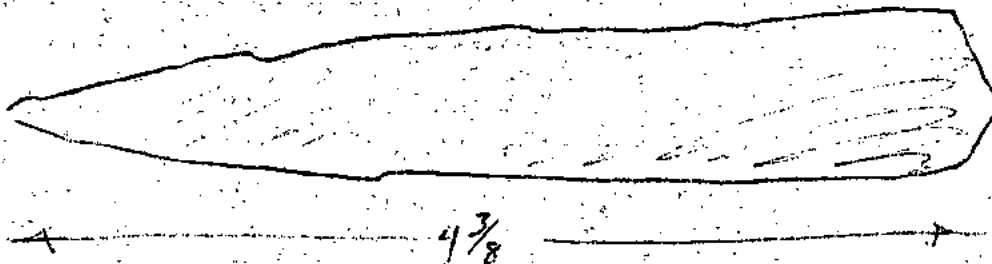
Italian glass workers and within three months 'after their arrivall in Virginia sett upp a Glasso Furnace and make all manner of Beads and Glasso.' The 'Chiefo employments were in the Makinge of beads, being the monoy tradod with the natives.'

"The excavations at Jamestown have been made by archacologist J. C. Harrington of the National Park Service.



During the week of April 1st, 1953, Paul Mann opened a grave in which a broken piece of a china dish was found associated with the skeletal remains, with three drilled holes, and a pipe forming the top of a celt. (See diagram.) also a glass bead one and one-half inches long and seven-eighths of an inch in diameter from the same grave.

Also illustrated is a native copper spear four and three-eighths inches long from the Mud Lock site, Cayuga County. There may be more information regarding this article later.



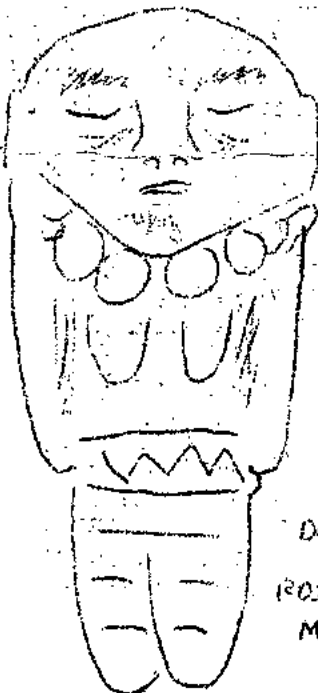
MAY MEETING

Glenn V. Norris, Tompkins County Historian, covered most inspiringly his topic, "Finger Lakes Trailways". We are hoping he will summarize his talk for the Bulletin.

We were delighted to hear of Mr. Norris' trip to Mexico, and especially interested in seeing the small carvings which he brought back. One is reproduced on the cover, the other below. They reminded me much of the Pre-Columbian Mexican material from Monte Albin, a spectacular city near Oaxaca, 6,331 feet above sea level. This was the capitol of a Mexican war-like tribe, the Zapotecs. At one time there were many temples, pyramids, tombs, courts and mounds, giving evidence of the great city that once existed there. All these ruins are located around a huge plaza wherein a coronial game was played with a rubber ball, (not unlike our modern basketball) evidencing again their contacts with their lowland Mayan cities. The carving that Mr. Norris has is similar to the coronial funerary urns, indicating their belief in the afterlife. They always show their divinities in the guise of warriors and with grotesque features such as the ears of the one Mr. Norris has (one ear has been broken off). They always portrayed these figures symmetrically standing or sitting and the point of view is always directly from the front.

The second carving was a jade imago found near Tasco. In this case the carving is on the back as well as the front, and is suggestive of the Toltec style of carving.

FRONT



BACK



DRAWN
BY
ROSEMARY
MANN

June 11th Meeting

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CENTRAL NEW YORK
Cayuga Museum

Our program chairman, Floyd Johnson, has obtained for us an interesting speaker on the art of making oriental rugs. Mr. M. M. Firozi, well known to those of the Geneva district, will not only present this informative topic, but we are hoping he will also display a few samples of his choice rugs.

Our second speaker is H. Lee Davis, who will give us an analysis of bone structure, his topic being "Know Your Bones".

Much excitement has been experienced during the past month, both on old well known sites and new sites, brought into the focus of attention by recent road construction. We suspect there will be much to talk about and many pieces to examine, so bring your recent finds and join in the discussion.

July means, as it has through the past years, an interesting field trip and social gathering. In August we go visiting once again, an excellent opportunity to see a member's collection.

When you attend the meeting be sure to see the outstanding photograph exhibit. Prints have been received from all around the world, and the Fifteenth Annual International Finger Lakes Salon of Photography is the finest one to date.



SPANISH COIN



The above silver coin, Spanish 1722, was found at Victory a year ago this month by a youngster, Van Howell. This is further proof that there is much yet to be picked up from the fields, and we encourage everyone to keep their eyes peeled and most important - report it to the museum.