



**JOURNAL  
OF THE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**

**NUMBER 2  
1975**

# THE VIRGIN ISLANDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

founded and incorporated, January 1974, at St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands as a non-profit, scientific organization.

The object for which this corporate society is formed is to bring together those persons having a serious interest in archaeology, history and related studies; to explore, excavate (under the aegis and direction of the Territorial Archaeologist of the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands), chart and study the cultures of primitive peoples who once inhabited our Islands; to publish the Society's findings; to communicate with other archaeological and historical societies and disseminate knowledge acquired through such activities.

Membership in the Society is open to all persons having an abiding interest in the objectives of the Society and who adhere to the Society's Code of Ethics.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Life .....	\$150
Fellow (as elected by the Executive Council) .....	20
Active .....	20
Joint (husband and wife) .....	25
Institutional (Libraries, museums, and other archaeological societies) .....	40
Associate & Sustaining .....	15
Student (at High School & College level) .....	5
Honorary (as elected by Members of the Society).	

Except for Life Membership, all dues are annual and fees are to be paid in U.S. currency.

All Members are entitled to cast a vote and to receive one copy of the Journal as issued.

Applications for Membership to the Society, and Subscription to the Journal, and all general correspondence: Ms. Katheryne B. Kay, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 4986, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801.

Manuscripts, (drawings, charts, maps, photographs) submitted to the Society's Journal shall be in the English language, typewritten and doubled spaced; and shall become the property of the Society unless return is requested and accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All correspondence deemed suitable for publication should be sent via air, certified mail: Kenneth C. Dick, Editor, High Road, Star Route, Vessup Bay Estates, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, 00801. The Society cannot guarantee publication of unsolicited articles and reserves the right to reject and/or edit all articles, in the best interests of the Society.

Copies of the Society's Journal or Journals will be sent, free of charge, to all members not in arrears. (One copy per Membership).

SOCIETY MEETING DATES: the 3rd Thursday of each month, 8 p.m. at the Society's headquarters, Havensight Road, St. Thomas.

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**Journal**

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# VIRGIN ISLANDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## APPLICATION

- Please send application for Membership in the Society.
- Subscription to the V.I. Archaeological Society's Journal:  
Individual Non-Members ..... \$10 annually
- Non-Member Societies,  
Museums and Institutions ..... \$12 annually.

Payment in advance by check or money order to the V.I. Archaeological Society. Foreign currency or stamps not acceptable.  
P.O. Box 4986, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801

IN MEMORIAM

*Archaeology has suffered a sad loss in the passing of Mr. Otto Feger, who died in New York at the age of 57 on March 11, 1975.*

*Just a few weeks prior to his demise, ill health had forced him to resign as Administrator for the Society's proposed dig at Dorothea, St. Thomas*

*Apart from his field experience in Israel, Greece, and Italy, and his work with us at Hull Bay, Otto Feger was kind and considerate, a willing worker, a man of deep understanding. His friends will grieve with his wife, Helen, to whom he had been happily married for more than 25 years.*

*This issue of our Journal is dedicated to the memory of Otto Feger.*



### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

After the publication of Volume 1, this JOURNAL will be numbered sequentially in Arabic numerals. Thus, this is Number 2 and Number 3 will follow. Authors are advised that they are to adhere to the stylistic guidelines of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY in writing their articles, but that all affiliations and credentials will be listed in the BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES at the end of each issue.

## NOTES



## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Theodore E. Bradstreet was born in Augusta, Maine. He holds a Master's degree in quaternary geology from the University of Maine and another in anthropology from the State University of New York. A Fellow of the Society, he is to undertake salvage archaeology along the new Alaska Pipeline this summer, under contract with the University of Alaska.

Dr. Aimery P. Caron is Assistant to the President of the College of the Virgin Islands and Associate Professor of Chemistry at that institution. Born in Paris, France, he completed his graduate studies at the University of Southern California, and has been an avid student of West Indian prehistory for many years.

Dr. Isaac Dookhan, Historian-in-Residence of the College of the Virgin Islands, was born in Guyana and educated in the University of the West Indies. The author of many erudite treatises, he has recently published the latest comprehensive history of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Alfredo E. Figueredo was born in Las Tunas, Cuba, and was educated in New York City, earning a B.A. in anthropology from Queens College of the City University of New York. He was the first Territorial Archaeologist of the U. S. Virgin Islands until January 1975. He had also served previously as Curator of the Virgin Islands Museum and as an instructor at Russell Sage College. Presently, he is Chairman of the Society's Executive Council, and the Archaeologist of the Federal Virgin Islands State Review Board for National Historic Preservation.

Frederik C. Gjessing was born in St. Louis, Missouri. From the age of 3 and until 19 years old, he lived in Denmark, where he was a student at the Royal Academy of the Arts, attending Cornell University on his return to the United States. He served in the U.S. Navy as a First Lieutenant in the capacity of a photographic interpreter. Presently, he is Historical Architect of the National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior), stationed in St. Thomas.

Jeffrey M. Gross was born in New York. He is a junior at Yale University, and has done archaeological work in the U.S. Southwest, England, and Wales, as well as in the Virgin Islands. He currently resides in St. Thomas on a leave of absence to study the local preceramic cultures.

Bruce E. Tilden was born in San Gabriel, California. He graduated *cum laude* from the College of the Virgin Islands with a B.A. in Social Sciences, and has participated in archaeological work from the Dominican Republic to Saba. He is presently an Assistant Archaeologist in the Office of the Territorial Archaeologist, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Chairman of the Society's Ethics Committee.



# Virgin Islands Archaeological Society, Inc.

Membership in the Society shall be open to all persons having an abiding interest in the objectives of the Society and who adhere to the Society's Code of Ethics. Right to membership in the Society shall be established by the applicant's acceptance and the payment of dues. Membership in the Society may not be assigned or transferred.

Memberships shall consist of eight (8) categories: Life (\$150.00), Fellow (\$20.00, as elected by the Executive Council), Active (\$20.00), Joint (\$5.00 for the second party in the case both husband and wife are members with reduced dues for one spouse, provided the full dues for the spouse in the higher category are paid and only one copy of any regular publication is furnished), Institutional (\$40.00 for libraries, museums and other archaeological societies), Associate or Sustaining (\$15.00), Student (\$5.00 for full or part-time students at the High School or College level with presentation of written proof of student status), and Honorary (as elected by the members of the Society).

Only Life, Active, Joint and Student Members in good standing shall be entitled to vote (one vote each) in the elections of the Society. Such members will cast their vote every second year for the election of an Administrator, Executive Secretary, Treasurer and Editor. All members in good standing shall receive copies of the regular publications of the Society and notification of meetings.

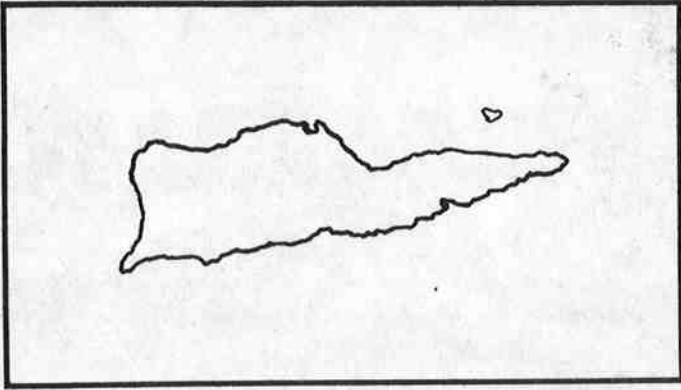
For information, write: Executive Secretary,  
Ms. Kathyryne Kay, Box 4986, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00801.

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## POPULAR ARCHAEOLOGY

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## THE INDIAN NAMES OF ST. CROIX

Aboriginal place names are almost unknown for the Virgin Islands, the result perhaps of relatively late settlement, when slaving raids from Puerto Rico had in all probability effectively exterminated the native population. As late as 1587 one Indian village is reported from St. Croix, yet we do not know if any were still left there when the first Dutch settlers arrived sometime before 1625. If any remained, its inhabitants were killed off or assimilated very early, since aborigines are not reported on the island in the XVII Century. The first Danes on St. Thomas, for instance, found only four Indians to convert and enslave in 1671.

Peter Martyr observed that the land which Columbus named Santa Cruz in 1493 was called *Ay Ay* by its inhabitants. Samuel E. Morison and other historians believe this to be St. Croix, though the matter is by no means settled. The name has been variously spelled as *Ayay*, *Aye Aye*, and *Agay*, the last form being preferred by McGuire's *Geographical Dictionary*, an official guide to the spelling of local place-names. The meaning is obscure.

Half a century after Peter Martyr, when it is assumed that the name 'Santa Cruz' already definitely applied to St. Croix, we read in Oviedo's *History* that it was called *Cibuqueira* by its native inhabitants. The name appears three times, once with the *c* changed to an *l* (*Libuqueira*) presumably through a copyist's error. If Arawakan, the first element in the name is probably akin to *ciba*, 'stone' the middle element to the suffix *-que*, 'land', with the distant possibility that the last element is related to *eyeri*, 'men', and the infixed position of *-que* is thereby resolved: *Cibuque*, 'stony land', *Cibuqueira*, 'men of the stony land'. If Cariban, it may comprise two elements, *cibu* and *queira* (as in *Caracueira*, modern Guadeloupe), probably with a similar meaning to our hypothetical *Cibuque*.