



**JOURNAL
OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

NUMBER 5

1978

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.

Application for Membership to the Society and all general correspondence: Mrs. Alesa M. Penso, Executive Secretary: P.O. Box 165, Kingshill, St. Croix, V.I. 00850. Tel.: 772-3918. Correspondence to St. Thomas Chapter: Jean W. McCluskey ICA-2 Wintberg, Star Route, St. Thomas, V.I. 00801. Tel.: 774-8192.

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: Members will be informed of place, date and time by advance *Newsletter*.

VIRGIN ISLANDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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Journal

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Erratum

In my article, 'Aboriginal and Early Spanish Names of Some Caribbean, Circum-Caribbean Islands and Cays' (*Journal of the Virgin Islands Archaeological Society*, no. 4, pp. 17-41), the conclusion assumed was that Christopher Columbus must have named St. Thomas (V.I.) 'if only for the reason that this island's name appears on a map in the Royal Library, Copenhagen, Denmark, dated 1513 and signed Bartholomaeus. This seems to be the earliest map on which the name St. Thomas is set down' (the map was apparently made by Christopher Columbus' brother, Bartolomé Colón).

Upon receipt of a facsimile of this map, I found that the information originally furnished me turned out to be erroneous (a very inefficient bit of outside research investigation on this all-important point). The fact is that the name St. Thomas does *not* appear on this map, but simply the name 'Virgin Islands'!

Like so many other facets of history in which there are no known facts, we can only delve into circumstantial evidence and see in what direction it points. As mentioned in my article, the first important map of the New World is that of Juan de la Cosa, dated 1500. It bears the name 'Las Virgenes' but St. Thomas and St. John do not appear.

The second most important map is that of Alonso de Santa Cruz, prepared by 1541, with an entire *Atlas*, and probably based on data collected not much later than 1520. This map is interesting, inasmuch as Santa Cruz has named a couple of islands, with names no longer used. He shows 'virgenes' (Virgin Islands), 'bizgigorda' (Virgin Gorda) and Anegada, but also shows an island which some historians say is 'Cayo de San Juan' and another smaller one which he calls 'isleo blanco'. There is a larger island near that of 'Cayo de San Juan', but it is unnamed.

We must keep in mind that many statements attributed to Columbus were not direct quotations of the Admiral but come to us from letters written by others who were on board, men such as Dr. Chanca, Michele de Cuneo, and Guillermo Coma. Such letters were not written with historical intent. Fairly accurate maps were made only of those islands on which attempts were made to colonize or otherwise explore for gold.

It would seem, however, that we have to leave the Spaniards out of it. They explored to the west and, after Columbus' voyage, showed little or no interest in what we now call the Virgin Islands, except in passing through. The next European nation to penetrate these waters was the English.

Captain John White lingered in the Virgins in 1587 and, of course, Sir Francis Drake passed this way in 1595. By 1610, many English ships on the way to the settlement in Jamestown made the voyage via the West Indies. It

seems that the first leg was from St. Christopher's and Nevis, where after resting and reprovisioning, the long haul to Virginia could continue.

Because of the lack of potable water, there was no reason to lay over in the waters of St. Thomas or St. John, but as the Virgins were doubtless the first land sighted, many an anchorage must have taken place there, if only in order to recover their land-legs, take care of illness, or some other contingency.

In personal correspondence from historian Miles H. Fairbank:

I am convinced that at that period, about a century after Columbus, the English knew more about these islands than did the Spaniards, and the Anglicized version of St. Thomas and St. John would lead me to believe that the English were responsible for the names we are seeking. We must not forget that during this period England was going through a bit of religious turmoil and the naming for saints may not have been coincidental.

Fairbank suggested trying to locate a copy of an *Atlas*, dated 1611, by the Englishman John Speed in the remote possibility that it might contain a map of the West Indies, showing St. Thomas. In this regard I have sent an inquiry to the British Naval Museum, Greenwich, England.

So, the search for who named St. Thomas continues . . .

Kenneth C. Dick

Notice to Authors

The *Journal of the Virgin Islands Archaeological Society* will consider for publication unsolicited articles submitted in formats which conform to the ones in this issue. Similar standards are those of *American Anthropologist*, *American Antiquity*, the Modern Language Association, and The University of Chicago Press. Whereas a scholarly *apparatus* is suited to learned essays and notes, the *Journal* will consider also (as in the past) articles of general archaeological or historical interest written for unspecialized readers. The goal is to please *all* subscribers, while retaining a certain basic literary quality.

Virgin Islands Archaeological Society, Inc.

Mrs. Alesa M. Penso, Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 165, Kingshill, St. Croix, V.I. 00850
Tel.: 772-3918

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*Joint members are husband and wife, receiving one copy of the *Journal and Newsletter* only (as issued) between them, but each individual casting a separate full vote for all Society purposes.

[†]Fellows are accepted to Active membership initially. Upon the submission of a *curriculum vitae* to the Executive Secretary, and the endorsement in writing by either two Fellows in good standing or five other voting members in good standing (Active, Joint, Life, or Student), the application to Fellowship is turned over to the Ethics Committee for screening, and then to the Executive Council for possible election. The conditions for Fellowship (including important duties assumed upon election) are set forth in the Society's By-Laws.

[‡]Life Members are individuals (Active or Fellows) who pay once the stipulated dues for such consideration. This includes all the attributes of full membership or Fellowship (after election) for life.

[§]The Society is tax-exempt and dues and donations are tax-deductible. Cash donations may be earmarked for any special purpose acceptable to the Society, such as the Publications Fund (which is administered separately by the Editor, advised by the Publications Committee).

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Approved by _____ Date _____

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

STEPHEN DAVEY GLAZIER was born in New London, Connecticut. He studied anthropology at Princeton and Edinburgh, and is now a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Connecticut. Glazier has done anthropological field work in Trinidad during 1976 and 1977, as well as considerable documentary research on the local ethnohistory.

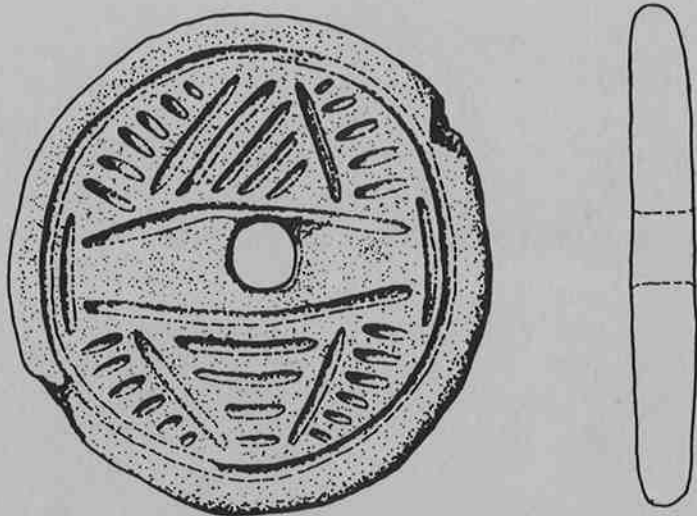
ROBERT CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN is a native of Maryland. He graduated from Tulane University with a double major in anthropology and political science, receiving also a master's degree in the former from Florida State University. Presently director of the Expedition Training Institute, Goodwin is also a candidate for a Ph.D. in anthropology at Arizona State University.

LOUISE KRASNIEWICZ holds a B.A. *magna cum laude* in anthropology and a master's degree in educational media, both from the University of Connecticut. She studied palaeoethnobotany under Jane M. Renfrew at the University of Southampton, and has acquired an interest in the prehistory of the West Indies.

OSWALDO IGNACIO MORALES PATIÑO was born in Havana, Cuba. Besides many other honorary and special titles, he earned an M.D. in surgery from Havana University in 1922. Related to the early Cuban antiquarian and linguist Antonio Bachiller y Morales, he soon developed an interest in archaeology and has contributed important site reports, lexicons, typologies, and theoretical papers. A founding member of the Grupo Etnológico Guamá and President from 1948 to 1952 of Cuba's National Board for Archaeology and Ethnology, he has been active also in public archaeology. Persecuted, tortured, and imprisoned because of his beliefs in Communist Cuba, he was allowed to leave the country in order to seek medical treatment for the after-effects of a prison beating. After his recovery, Dr. Morales practiced medicine briefly in New Jersey and has retired lately to Key West, where he remains active and has become honorary Curator of Archaeology for the East Martello Tower Museum of that Florida city. He is also a Corresponding Member of the Department of Anthropology, Florida State University.

FERNANDO ROYO GUARDIA was born in Barcelona, Spain, but grew up and spent most of his life in Cuba. He holds two doctorates among his many credentials, one in Education and another in Natural Sciences (anthropology), both from the University of Havana. His dissertation for the second degree was *INDIAN BURIALS IN CUBA*. He worked with the late René Herrera Fritot and other Cuban anthropologists, his own work in field archaeology, physical anthropology, ethnohistory and ethnology being quite extensive (in some cases pioneering). Long a prominent member of Cuba's National Board for Archaeology and Ethnology, he resigned from that Board in 1952 protesting Communist infiltration, and, in 1959, also his high-ranking post in the Cuban Ministry of Education, for the same reason. In his middle seventies, Dr. Royo continues to write from his Los Angeles home.

For the biographical notes of Kenneth Charles Dick and Alfredo Ezequiel Figueredo, please see the penultimate pages of issues number 4 and 2, respectively.



During June, 1972, an archaeological survey team from the Museum of the American Indian (Heye Foundation) under the direction of Alfredo E. Figueredo discovered an unusual Taíno component in Virgin Gorda, characterized (among other things) by molded and baked clay spindle whorls and an elaborate Chicoid art style. While most of the clay spindle whorls had no decorations at all, a minority of the fragments showed some incised patterns. These patterns were recognized as being part of the same art style that decorates the associated ceramic pottery and baked clay stamps. The style was dubbed 'Fort Point' after the type site.

Only one whole specimen of a decorated clay spindle whorl was recovered, and is illustrated here. It was analyzed by Figueredo at the University of Massachusetts, and has been returned to the government of the British Virgin Islands as a unique object to be displayed in the new local museum. Hopefully, it will be given the care and attention that it deserves.

Description

Munsell Soil Color Chart 5YR 4/4

Dimensions: 8-1/2 by 8 cm., 11 mm. thick