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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 appropriate authorities), 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.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

DOUGLAS VICTOR ARMSTRONG is a native of California. He graduated with a B.A. from Occidental College, and has earned his M.A. in archaeology from the University of California at Los Angeles, where he is enrolled now in the Ph.D. program in anthropology. Armstrong has done field work in California and Ghana, and around the Caribbean Basin. His professional interests include cultural ecology and the analysis of shell deposits in archaeology.

GLEN TURNER HANSON JR. was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He graduated with a B.S. from Grand Valley State College, and received a M.A. in anthropology from Arizona State University, where he is a Ph.D. candidate. Having a substantial background in the prehistory of the U.S. Southwest, Hanson is employed currently by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology of the University of South Carolina, where he is involved in a program of intensive research including the cultural ecology of the lower Piedmont region. Besides his expertise in the two areas mentioned, Hanson is interested in archaeological theory and lithic analysis. His M.A. thesis is entitled *An Appraisal of Archeological Nearest Neighbor Analysis*.

CYD HEYMANN is a native of Maryland. She received her B.A. in anthropology from Florida State University, and has done archaeological field work in Honduras and St. Kitts. Heymann co-authored (with R. Christopher Goodwin) 'St. Kitts Salvage Archeology', *Explorers Journal*, vol. 55 (1977), no. 1, pp. 20-23.

CHARLES ANDREW HOFFMAN JR. was born in Wildwood, New Jersey. He received a B.S.J. and a M.A. in anthropology from the University of Florida, and a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. His doctoral dissertation is entitled *Bahama Prehistory: Cultural Adaptation to an Island Environment*. Currently Associate Professor of Anthropology at Northern Arizona University, Hoffman is a leading Caribbean archaeologist; he conducted significant research on Antigua, St. Kitts, and the Bahamas. Hoffman has done field work in Florida, and is engaged in a study combining historic site archaeology and ethnography in the Little Colorado River Valley of eastern Arizona.

For the biographical notes of Robert Christopher Goodwin and Desmond Vernon Nicholson please see the inside back covers of issues number 5 and number 3, respectively.



NEW FINDS FROM ST CROIX

Jet artifacts, of Spanish manufacture, found in the course of recent excavations at the 'Columbus Landing Site' (12VAm1-6) on Salt River Point, St. Croix: a fist-shaped amulet, or *figa*, and three beads, all of which may have been strung together originally as parts of a single necklace. They were recovered from a test pit dug inside the earthworks of a XVII Century fort, and were presumably deposited on the site sometime during the period of its occupation by the French (c. 1650-1695). For many centuries, artisans in northern Spain turned out jet objects of this sort for sale to tourists making their pilgrimage to the great shrine of Santiago de Compostela. The items found at Salt River Point were probably acquired in Spain itself by a French pilgrim who subsequently made a voyage to the Indies, eventually becoming involved in his country's colonial venture on St. Croix.

The excavations at Salt River Point are being undertaken by the staff of the Virgin Islands Office of Archaeological Services, assisted by members of the St. Croix Chapter of the Society. The specimens shown here were recovered in 1977 by a team headed by Bruce E. Tilden and Richard T. Gartley. A good many additional objects of a similar nature have been unearthed since then, in the course of further testing.