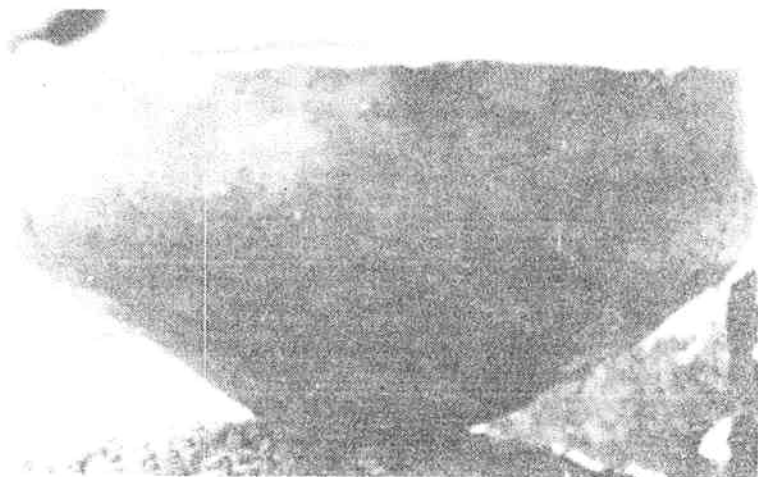


HULL BAY POT



The discovery of a new archaeological area at the Hull Bay site began with the finding of the above clay vessel by Frederik Gjessing in September 1968 some 30 metres North Northeast of the site where skeletons were unearthed. The pot originally contained the bones of an infant. Elenoid period, 950-1250 A.D.

Editor's Note:

One of the major archaeological finds this year in the Virgin Islands was the discovery of an ancient Indian burial site at Hull Bay, St. Thomas. The following photographs are but a prelude to a fully detailed and scientific report which will be published in a future issue of the Society's Journal, after all data have been studied and interpreted.

HULL BAY

From March 26 to May 31 1974, the Society cooperated with the Virgin Islands Museum in the excavation of this important site. A transitional assemblage of artifacts was present, bridging the Ostionoid and Elenoid cultures. Two extended human burials were also found. According to previous radio-carbon dates from Puerto Rico, the culture excavated should hark to about 1100 A.D. Two new radiocarbon assays from Hull Bay, however, yielded dates of 1220 ± 110 and 1310 ± 120 A.D., supporting a later temporal placement for the assemblage in question. A third date, obtained from human bone, presented an activity of 104%, and is therefore unacceptable. This is the first such site to be excavated stratigraphically, and these are the first radiocarbon dates for the ceramic period in the Virgin Islands.



Fig. 1

Figures 1, 2, 3: Views of skeletons found at Hull Bay during course of excavations. Axis of left skeleton is aligned with feet facing true east. Also associated with ceramic vessel of the Elenoid period.

Figure 4: Elenoid pot fragment associated with first skeleton.

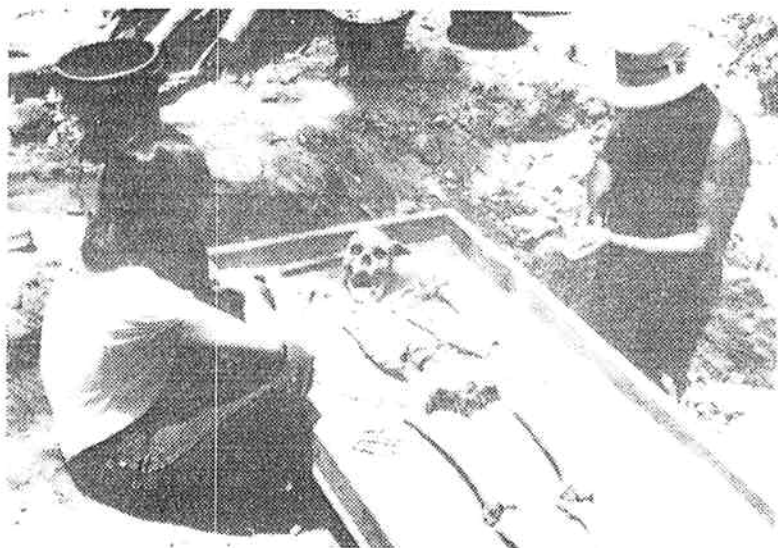


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4