



North Carolina Archaeological Society

Newsletter

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<http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas>

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A Book of Potential Interest: *Ceramics in America 2009* Focuses on Moravian Ceramics and Archaeology

Ceramics in America 2009, edited by Robert Hunter and Luke Beckerdite, focuses on the Moravian potters of North Carolina, potters who came from a German tradition, and the wares of John Bartlam at Cain Hoy.

These articles have wonderful color pictures of wasters from a number of sites along with picture of vessels that have survived the ravages of time. These potters produced slip decorated wares in a German tradition, but also made attempts to produce wares in an English tradition by bringing in the English potters William Ellis and John Bartlam to work with them. The history of the Moravian potters is richly recorded and preserved in the minutes kept by the Moravian community when changes in production were planned and the hiring of non-members of the community such as the English potters Ellis and Bartlam.

Some of you may remember Stanley South's excavation of one of the Moravian potteries in Bethabara back in the 1960s. He later excavated some wasters from John Bartlam's pottery near Cain Hoy. Rob Hunter has revisited the interpretation of some of the assemblages from the Bethabara excavations and has illustrated the English-style wares that William Ellis produced there. Lisa Hudgins has provided a good description of the wares that were excavated at Cain Hoy. Both of these articles show that good-quality English-style creamware and

mottled glaze wares were produced in the mid-eighteenth century, but the effort to sustain their production failed. These wares are only known because of the excavated wasters.

This volume also features a rich collection of color plates of the slipwares produced in the Moravian potteries. In addition there are two articles on how the wares were made. One by Rob Hunter and Michelle Erickson illustrates the making of a Moravian ring bottle. The other article by Erickson, Hunter, and Caroline Hannah provides a detailed illustration on the making of a set of molds to produce a press-molded squirrel bottle. Alain Outlaw provides an article on the excavation of the Mount Shepherd Pottery site in Randolph County that was operated by a Moravian potter who was forced out of Bethabara. Luke Beckerdite and Johanna Brown provide an excellent overview of the 18th-century North Carolina Moravian pottery tradition.

Ceramics in America 2009 would make a good addition to anyone's library, as it is a nice mix of documentation, archaeology, and surviving examples, all very well illustrated by the wonderful photography of Gavin Ashworth. The book is hardbound, has 232 pages and numerous color plates. It is now available from the University Press of New England, though it can be purchased from Amazon.com or Barnesandnoble.com at a slightly lower price.

Upcoming Conference

The Waterlogged Organic Archaeological Materials Conference will be held at East Carolina University from May 24-29, 2010. Call for papers and conference information are available at <http://www.woam2010.com/index.htm>.

Announcing A New North Carolina Archaeological Council Publication!

*In the Angle of the Woods: Archaeological and Historical Investigations of the Sprott Cemetery (31Mk1081**)*, By Hugh B. Matternes and Terri Gillett. Co-published by the North Carolina Archaeological Council and New South Associates, Inc. North Carolina Archaeological Council Publication No. 29.

Since 1974, the North Carolina Archaeological Council (NCAC) has published seminal volumes on prehistoric and historic period archaeology in North Carolina. The latest volume in the NCAC Publication series details the discovery of the Sprott Cemetery, a mid to late 18th-century burial ground encountered during the construction of an extension to CMC-Mercy Hospital in Charlotte. The remains of fourteen individuals were documented and archaeologically recovered, and through careful historical research, were identified as members of some of the earliest families to settle in the area of Mecklenburg County during the 18th century. This research allowed their recovered remains to be reinterred in a nearby cemetery that contained descendants of the identified families. This volume stands as an outstanding example of combined historical research and mortuary studies, and will likely be of interest to anyone who is involved in the research of historic period cemeteries, historic burial practices, the skeletal analysis of non-native historic remains, or early Backcountry settlement.

However, you won't have to wait to receive a copy at the next archaeology meeting or in the mail! Following the lead of our colleagues in other states,

as well as the publication trend in many disciplines, the NCAC has decided to publish *In The Angle of the Woods*, as well as all future volumes, in Adobe (.pdf) electronic format. This will allow everyone to easily access the NCAC Publication website at <http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncac/Publications/index.html>, download it to your PC or Mac, and print it at your leisure. This move to electronic format is a more efficient way to distribute NCAC publications, and will also save in printing cost that may allow a more rapid pace of publication for future volumes.

If you are missing any of the Council Publication series, previous volumes 1 through 27 have been digitized and are all available for download at the same website. There are still many print copies available of NCAC Publication 28, Carl Steen's excellent *Restoration Excavations at Somerset Plantation, 1994 and 2001*. Should you wish to order a print copy of this volume, please contact NCAC Secretary Shawn Patch at spatch@newsouthassoc.com.

Should anyone have a report, manuscript, or thesis related to the prehistoric, historic period, or underwater archaeology that they would like the North Carolina Archaeological Council to consider for publication, please contact NCAC Editor Tom Beaman at tebeaman@waketech.edu or tbeamanjr@aol.com for more details. Remember, all NCAC Publications are blind peer reviewed to insure a high quality editorial standard of research and presentation.

NCAS Newsletter Publication Schedule

All NCAS members are encouraged to submit articles and news items to Dee Nelms, Associate Editor, for inclusion in the *Newsletter*. Please use the following cut-off dates as guides for your submissions:

Spring Issue - February 28 Summer Issue - May 31 Fall Issue - August 31 Winter Issue - November 30

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