

CONFERENCE NOTES

Annual Conference of the Ontario Association for Sociology and Anthropology, Brock University, October 19th., 1990

This is a regional association that draws a small attendance (50 - 100) and this year had three concurrent sessions through the day. Anthropology tends to be little-represented in the OASA, and this year only one section was anthropology -- a pre-orchestrated set of four papers on James Bay hunting-trapping territory research under the auspices of the TASO programme, with papers (listed in the order they were given) by Dick Preston (Mac) on the history of land use in the region, Bryan Cummins (Mac) on his fieldwork, especially his mapping of Attiwapiskat territories and other land use, Mark Schuler (Mac) on his fieldwork, especially hunter's views on hunting and the problems with the provincial registered trapline system, and Fikret Berkes (Brock) on case studies and models for future possibilities for co-management (the Crees and the Province) of land and animal resources.

The audience was small (maximum was three) but the papers complemented each other remarkably well, and the discussion was so lively that we ran about an hour per paper instead of 30 minutes (there was a Chinese food lunch break). Fortunately there was no later section scheduled in that room, so we didn't have to cut off discussion.

Suggestions for students: you may not find many anthro papers, but the groups we eavesdropped (WHAT is the etymology of that word? dropping off the roof?) on seemed to be enjoying good discussions. There were sessions on sociology of health and criminology. Okay if you want to find a small, local venue to see how the others talk, but not so great for sharing anthro ideas.

Richard Preston
McMaster University

The *Twenty-Second Algonquian Conference* took place in Chicago, the proverbial 'Windy City' with its fascinating cityscape architecture October 26-28, 1990. This annual meeting encompasses a number of disciplines all focussed upon various aspects of the Algonquian First Nations. Informally divided between Linguists and 'Others', the topics

covered in the papers ranged from ethnohistory to databases of genealogies to material culture to spiritual concepts to ethnomusicology to historically significant letters written in Algonquian languages. Concurrent sessions of linguistics and 'others' were held in the mornings with broader plenary sessions slated for the afternoons. A sample of papers presented to this combined group included Amy Dahlstrom's paper on *Underwater Manitou and Other Drawings in Alfred Kiyana's Fox Texts*, Robert Brightman's *Dreaming of Animals*, and Regna Darnell's *Plains Cree Conversational Structures*. Local interest was aroused with Ray Fogelson's slide presentation of *The Red Man in the White City*, depicting the native participation in Chicago's Worlds Fair.

An abbreviated session on Friday afternoon permitted a wonderful side trip to the Ivory Tower of Native American History: the Newberry Library. Once there, we were divided into manageable groups to view such Algonquian treasures as original and/or rare documents, manuscripts, dictionaries, and prayer books. While Jay Miller of the Newberry enlightened each group in succession, the remaining groups toured a special exhibit of Medieval manuscripts housed in the Library.

The arrangements were well-organized under the capable direction of Amy Dahlstrom of the Linguistics Department of the University of Chicago. As the sessions were held at the Blackstone Hotel on Michigan Avenue in the city core, conference participants were within easy walking distance of such points of interest as, for example, the Field Museum of Natural History with its large collection of Algonquian material, the historic Wrigley Building, and the Chicago Art Institute.

The relaxed atmosphere and friendliness of the participants guarantees enthusiastic discussions and a scholarly exchange of ideas. Furthermore, it is a wonderful setting for those intimidating 'first experiences' of students whether presenting a paper or informally discussing ideas with well-known and respected scholars. As next year's conference is being organized by Regna Darnell of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Western Ontario in London, it will be close enough to be 'attractively accessible' to students. See you there!

Cath Oberholtzer
McMaster University

Annual Conference of the American Society for Ethnohistory.

Cosponsored by the University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum. Toronto, Ontario; November 1 - 4, 1990.

The smoothness with which the entire proceedings moved can be attributed to the organizational skills of co-chairs, Sylvia Van Kirk and Trudy Nicks, and Conference Co-ordinator, Eileen Thomas.

Highlights of the Conference included the Edward S. Rogers Annual Lecture in Anthropology at the Royal Ontario Museum on the opening evening. Guest Lecturer was Donald Smith who presented a delightful, and at times, irreverent, view of *The Making of Grey Owl* gathered during twenty years of research on Archie Belaney (a.k.a. Grey Owl). On Friday afternoon, buses were arranged to transport registrants to the session held at the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford, Ontario. Following this session devoted to "Seneca Indian Ethnohistory: Twenty Years Since Anthony F.C. Wallace's Death and Rebirth of the Seneca", curator, Tom Hill, introduced the historical development and curated exhibits of the Centre by means of a slide presentation, prior to a guided tour through the current exhibits. A memorable feast of native foods and the musical talents of the women singers were enjoyed by all. Jennifer S.H. Brown gave the President's address at the annual President's Luncheon on Saturday at the Westbury Hotel.

The programme for the meeting was developed around a number of themes and issues organized into 22 chaired sessions, with three sessions running simultaneously in separate locations. In some instances, commentators and discussants summarized and added a synthesis for those papers. As the Society's main focus is on the ethnohistory [or, as it is 'lovingly' referred to; "just one damn thing after another"] of the American Indian, most of the sessions focussed on such topics as, for instance, *Native Politics and Strategies During Colonial Wars*, *Using Land Records to Reveal Cultural Information in the Northeast*, and *Questions of Identity and Self-Determination Among American Indians*. However, a number of sessions did allow for broader geographical and cultural areas. As well, there were several sessions with a Canadian emphasis including, "Treaty-Making in Ontario" chaired by John S. Long, representing the Mushkegowuk Council; with papers by Richard J. Preston (McMaster University) and Mary Black Rogers (Royal Ontario Museum), "Extinction and Survival: Cases From the East Coast", and "Arctic and Sub-Arctic Trade and Acculturation". Other topics covered in sessions were epidemics (Ann Herring, McMaster University, *The 1918 Flu Epidemic in Manitoba*

Aboriginal Communities: Implications for Depopulation Theory in the Americas), and the use of visual records in ethnohistoric studies.

Although a few students presented noteworthy scholarly papers, my general impression of the meeting is that the papers presented are the results of long-standing research by high-profile academic professionals. This is not to daunt the neophyte but rather to continue rigorous standards of professionalism within the field.

Cath Oberholtzer
McMaster University

Annual conference of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Toronto, November 1-4, 1990.

Medium-sized conference (200-300) that has a (blurred) focus on the nexus of history and ethnography. They are much more a professional society, have a venerable past, a bunch of very competent regular attenders, a journal of quality, and run 3 or 4 concurrent sessions over three days. I was there only very briefly, for the President's luncheon-address, and the session where I gave a paper, and also took in two methodology papers in another section. Getting on the program is a bit formal: send in your title and abstract well in advance and wait to hear if you are accepted. For all this formality, though, sections are often a collection of unorchestrated papers with some common theme (true of most conferences), and students need not fear giving a paper, though I don't recall any on the program.

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