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John M. Goggin and Frank H. Sommer III: *Excavations on Upper Matecumbe Key, Florida*. Yale University Publications in Anthropology number forty-one. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1949. (101 p., 8 plates, text figures)

This publication is a welcome addition to the archeological research being conducted in Florida. The aboriginal cultures of the Florida Keys have been neglected for a number of years; which is surprising, for, as Goggin has stated in his introduction: "The Upper Matecumbe site occupies a strategic position in North American archeology because it is situated on the frontier of the Southeastern archeological area. It is the southernmost place of excavation in the United States."

The site chosen for excavation on Upper Matecumbe Key was a low refuse midden on the southwestern part of the key. The Indians at this site camped initially on the limestone rocks that make up the foundations of the keys and through time their refuse grew to a depth of four feet. This refuse, made up of decayed vegetable matter, contained evidences of the foodstuffs of the Indians: shells, fish, bird, and mammal bones. It also contained various cultural materials such as pottery fragments, bone, shell, and stone implements manufactured by the Indians.

Goggin, by utilizing careful archeological excavation techniques and making correlations with other work he has done in the Glades area, has been able at this site to note the changes occurring in the aboriginal culture through time,

Although changes did occur the present work shows that the subsistence of these peoples was constant throughout the occupation of the site from about 50 A.D. to about 1530 A.D. The Indians of this area had a good food supply close at hand, utilizing sea foods, wild land plants, and animals. Goggin did not find any evidence that would indicate the peoples engaged in any agricultural activities.

The cultural material was quite diversified. Bone artifacts included antler picks, pins of various types, an awl, spatula, perforated shark's tooth, fish jaw scraper, and smoothed turtle bone. Shell artifacts were Busycon cups, dipper, picks, and saucer, worked *Cassis* lip, and columella section, *Cypraea* spoon, double grooved pendant, *Fasciolaria* vessel, notched gorget, perforated *Cardakia*, *Strombus* scraper, pounder, celt, disc, gouge, hand hammer, and vessel, and *Charonia* vessel. The stone artifacts found were a flint knife, grooved pebble weight, limestone chopper, pendant, hammer, coral pendant, and pumice smoother.

The ceramic complex at this site shows most clearly the cultural change through time, a knowledge gained principally by a close study of decorations and techniques of manufacture of the pottery fragments.

To summarize Goggin's conclusions : this kitchen midden on Upper Matecumbe Key had a basic uniformity of culture with definite temporal variations, and the site conforms to the general pattern established at an early date in southeastern Florida. The whole culture is one of adherence to, and delimited by, the local environment with virtually no raw materials or finished objects imported from other areas. The changes that did occur at this site were part of a widespread cultural change which was going on throughout the keys and the adjacent mainland and therefore contacts with these other areas must have been somewhat close.

Since no historical trade materials were found, at the site, it is believed that the Indians inhabiting this area during Spanish times had already abandoned this particular site, though the Spanish accounts refer to later peoples of this area as Matecumbe Indians. It is probable that the occupants of the Upper Matecumbe site were the ancestors of this ethnic group.

The dates that appear in this publication (825 A.D.-1530 A.D.) for the entire chronological range of the site have been revised recently by Goggin (a paper presented to The Society for American Archeology, at Norman,

Oklahoma, May 1950) and now are tentatively 50 A.D.-1530 A.D.

The author's description of the ecology and history of the area is very inclusive and gives the needed background for the understanding of the various prehistoric cultural problems which through his work have been clarified.

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Gordon R. Willey : *Excavations in Southeast Florida* (Yale University Publications in Anthropology, number 42, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1949, 137 pp., 8 text figures, 16 plates).

Many archeological sites were excavated and tested in Florida during the years 1933-36 as part of the Federal Relief program. While preliminary reports have been published on some of this work, it is only recently that the available data have been collected, synthesized, and published. This volume, covering southeast Florida, is one of the latter.

Dr. Gordon R. Willey of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, who has done much of the writing, deserves the thanks of all archeologists and historians who are interested in Florida's prehistory.

Excavations in Southeast Florida may be divided into three parts: those at the large Indian site at Belle Glade on the southeastern shore of Lake Okeechobee, smaller excavations in Palm Beach, Dade, and Broward counties, and a short discussion comparing these results with archeological findings in other parts of Florida.

At Belle Glade the main habitational midden was explored by means of a series of trenches six feet deep.

Evidently the first burial mound was constructed of muck on top of an old habitation surface. Muck accumulated over the old habitation level, and subsequently a sand burial mound was built over part of the muck mound. A limestone pavement was installed covering

that part of the muck mound not covered by the sand mound. Later, water action, presumedly a flood, spread the sand mound laterally. Reoccupation after this catastrophe resulted in a thin occupational zone. At a later date, a second sand mound was constructed on top of the first. Later still, much of this second sand mound was covered by muck. Some of the burials in the last mound were accompanied by European trade objects such as glass beads.

The data do not produce dates in terms of our calendar but the historian will note impressive evidence of the passing of time. Segregation of sherds of pottery by arbitrary levels in the midden excavation, permit Willey to demonstrate two ceramic periods during the life of the site, and another, brief period after contact with Europeans.

Excavated specimens at Belle Glade, in addition to many sherds, include smoking pipes of stone and pottery, plummet-shaped objects of pottery, stone and shell, beads of stone, shell and bone, projectile points of stone and bone, knives of chert, a celt, abrading, smoothing and sharpening stones, daggers, awls and pins (hair ornaments) of bone, perforated teeth, and various shell tools.

Probably the most interesting objects are those made of wood. Such artifacts are extremely rare archeologically. At Belle Glade they were fortunately preserved by the muck which accumulated over the first sand mound. Carved bird heads, bird wings, and a plaque mounting bird claws were found, as well as two human effigies, various tools, a stool, fragments of pestles, and a fire-drill hearth.

In the next section Willey gives us almost our only information about Big Mound City southeast of Canal Point. This site, one of the largest in Florida, comprises sixteen principal mounds, several lesser mounds, and a complex system of surrounding and connecting embankments arranged in an irregular but approximately semi-

circular pattern. This site is truly stupendous and indicates community planning on a large scale.

There are brief notes on excavations at Surfside, Opa Locka and other sites in Dade and Broward counties. Similarities in specimens to those from Belle Glade are evident.

In his conclusions the author shows that Belle Glade and the Dade and Broward sites were occupied by the same people with the same tools and way of life as other parts of South Florida. Most important is comparisons with material from Key Marco. This rather unique site, excavated in 1897 by Cushing, produced extravagant wooden masks, plaques, and other objects. Similarities in tools, utensils, ornaments, and objects of wood found at Key Marco and at Belle Glade are so great as to prove Key Marco not to be unique except from the standpoint of preservation. No longer do we have to look for exotic origins for Key Marco.

Wiley closes with a few pages on "General Affiliations" which outlines with a broad brush the dynamics of the prehistory of South Florida as glimpsed at his time of writing. It suggests the various historical accidents, diffusion over wide areas, and the impact of one culture on another operating under environmental influences, which resulted in the Indian culture as found by the Spaniards. Similar processes, in other environments and upon other backgrounds, have given us our American culture of today.

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Gordon R. Wiley, *Archeology of the Florida Gulf Coast*. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, vol. 113. 559 pp., 60 pls., 76 figs., 20 maps, 17 tables. 1949. Government Printing Office, Washington.

Florida archeology during the nineteenth century had an unusually full history for the period. Henry R.

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Schoolcraft's first depiction and discussion of Florida Indian pottery in 1854 can be considered as the archeological beginning. Later towards the end of the century Jeffries Wyman's capable work, and that of Clarence B. Moore at the turn of the century, were carried out in a style equal to or better than the average of their time. From this noteworthy beginning, though, archeological interest in Florida declined and except for occasional brief visits and excavations little was done during the first forty years of the present century. This lag was emphasized even more so because of significant developments taking place elsewhere in North America. These included a growing use of the concept of cultural units and the placing of such units in an areal and chronological framework.

It was not until the summer of 1940 that a systematic approach using these concepts was made in Florida archeology by means of regional surveys and stratigraphic excavations. Gordon R. Willey and Richard Woodbury successfully applied these techniques at that time, arousing an interest in the former worker which culminated in this intensive study of the Gulf Coast Florida archeology.

Although initial field work by Willey and Woodbury was in the Northwestern Gulf Coast, study of problems arising from that work indicated that Gulf Coast archeology should be attacked on a broader scale. For this reason Willey finally delineated his area for analysis as the Florida Gulf Coast and adjacent inland areas from Charlotte Harbor on the south to just over the Alabama line on the west. This comprises three archeological regions known as the Manatee region, Central Gulf region, and Northwest Gulf region. Individually, and as a group, they form excellent units for study as they stand out in sharp contrast to the neighboring regions.

This problem was vigorously attacked by a series of methods. Initially, and later, by field work, and by a study of his own and of previous workers' collections and published works all available data were organized.

Most importantly this study brought a new outlook to Florida archeology.

Dr. Willey's work, then, is much more than "the largest book on Florida archeology." It is a pioneer work in the field of cultural synthesis and historical analysis based, on stratigraphic excavation. The actual excavations carried out by Dr. Willey were relatively limited, but they were sufficient to give him a framework within which to organize his data, and they indicated the existence of key marker types of pottery and other artifacts. With such background material it was possible for Dr. Willey to restudy the great collections of Clarence B. Moore, along with dozens of smaller ones made by other students and collectors, and to place such material in its proper cultural and temporal archeological position. This has been done in such a thorough and capable fashion that his book can truly be called the major work in Florida archeology to date.

Willey's basic approach has been from the historical viewpoint. When he was able to establish by stratigraphic excavation, and other, techniques, the relative relationship of various artifact types (usually Indian pottery) to each other, he developed an historical framework of relative artifact history. Having the relative dates of these distinct artifacts it was possible to give relative positions to whole archeological sites. This is now a widely utilized approach, but new to Florida in 1940.

Secondly, the author approached the problem from a geographical viewpoint, grouping together regional archeological sites in terms of their similarity or difference. Thus having placed his sites in a regional picture and ranking them in relative temporal position he was able to analyze his data in historical terms pointing out the history and significance of individual traits or whole cultural units as they moved across the state or developed through the years.

The presentation of materials is clearly and effectively done, so either the professional archeologist, the

historian, or a general interested reader can quickly turn to the part of most interest to him and his problems. Following an informative introduction a general discussion of the geography and natural resources of the region is given in Section I. Section II surveys the whole picture of archeological work in the area from 1846 to 1946 stressing the actual work carried out in the area, and in case of the more outstanding earlier archeologists evaluating their work in its contemporary and present terms.

The following two sections, III and IV, present basic data on which the final interpretation and conclusions are based. In the first of these, the 1940 excavations of Dr. Willey and Richard Woodbury are presented in detail; in the second, there is presented for the first time a full account of Smithsonian Institution's work of the 1920's and 1930's in the Tampa Bay area, and the various joint State of Florida-Smithsonian Institution projects of the 1930's carried out with Federal relief funds.

A summary of the whole region, site by site, comprises the next section. Here each known individual site is briefly described, outstanding materials discussed, and the general or specific cultural position (thus its relative date) is given. These data for several hundred sites represent extensive research work in many institutions as well as many miles of walking through Florida woods.

In Section VI the basic goal of analytical archeology is achieved with the presentation of the cultural units or archeological culture periods found in the area. These units each represent a distinctive way of life shared by a broad group of people—a tribe, or perhaps several related tribes. Their distinctive culture, history—that is changes in the culture—through periods of hundreds of years, and geographical range and variation are all discussed. Through the use of such concepts we can visualize various groups of people, each with its own customs, existing and even coexisting along the Gulf Coast for many hundreds of years. The first peoples with a simple way of life, depending on hunting and the gathering of

marine foods, were the early forerunners of those later more sophisticated natives dwelling in extensive towns surrounded by large fields of corn and centering around an impressive temple surmounting a large earthen mound.

Since the upper end of Willey's time scale was clearly within the period after the Europeans entered Florida, it was logical to examine historical source material for data on Indian life and customs as recorded by the early white travelers, missionaries, and explorers. In Section VII Dr. Willey summarizes such available information from historical sources.

Finally, in a terminal section we find a discussion of important broad aspects of cultures that changed and evolved during man's occupation in the area. There is also a consideration of the relationship of the Florida Gulf Coast to adjacent areas in Florida, to the Southeast and to the West Indies.

Prepared with the customary editorial care of the Smithsonian Institution, this book is a fine example of the printing art. Unfortunately, for its size, it is only paper bound. The many clear photographs and illustrations of material are a guide to anyone interested in artifacts. The plates are above average in quality compared with similar archeological reports.

As the pioneer work of the modern era, and for its thoroughness in analyzing materials it is a tangible monument to the author's research, and should be the first book in any library of Florida archeology.

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