



THE DATUM POINT

January 2025

Newsletter of the
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER (NVC) OF THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Chapter Website – www.nvcasv.org



FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT PATRICK O'NEILL

What a great holiday party we had in December!!! Thank you for coming!!! Everyone was elected that was on the ballot, including Darius Roby as VP and Ishtar Watson as Datum Point Editor!! Thank you outgoing VP Yvonne French and DP Editor Kurt Fredrickson for your years of service as officers of the NVC!



Jack Hranicky, RPA being awarded by the AACA, 2010. Photo by Nativeamericanchurchwhite, via Wikipedia, under CC BY-SA 3.0

This month's meeting will be via Zoom.

To join follow this

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89884730397>

(copy and paste in browser)

Wednesday, January 8th, at 7 PM

Speaker: Mike Johnson

Topic: The Jasper Ridge Paleoamerican

Project: Current Research

ASV NOVA Chapter Rescues the Hranicky Collection

By Ishtar Watson



On December 28, 2024, more than 14 people arrived at the residence of Jack Hranicky to remove his massive library of archaeology and adjacent books and materials, all graciously donated to the ASV. With 279 boxes comprising the artifacts and a library

and a single day to move them from Alexandria then returning to finish the move to Historic Kittiewan the next day, extracting and preserving the collection was a massive and important exercise.



Sharon Butler & Elizabeth Moore

The move cost the ASV, in general, and the Northern Virginia Chapter, in particular, time and money to purchase boxes and rent a U-Haul, but the team came together and worked hard to preserve this valuable resource for future generations.

“This collection was rescued by us and you have my intense gratitude as well as the ASV's for your efforts!”

~Patrick O’Neill



Stephanie Jacobs & Yvonne French



Yvonne French



Richard Helm & Darius Roby

Jack Hranicky was a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA). During his forty-year career his scholarship focused on the Paleo-Indian period and, in particular, stone tools and rock art. He published more than 200 scholarly papers and 32 books, including a two-volume, 800-page survey of the material culture of Virginia. He was the webmaster of www.bipoints.com, which is a site on American early prehistory.

Hranicky taught anthropology at the Northern Virginia Community College and St. Johns High School College. He delivered hundreds of archaeological papers at various amateur and professional conferences throughout the United States. He operated the first bulletin board Archeological Society of Virginia Network Datum Point

(ASVnet) and Eastern States Archeological Federation Network (ESAFnet) and an Internet website in archaeology. He held the Internet domain archeology.org, one of the first web addresses for archaeology.

In 2011, Hranicky excavated the Spout Run site in Virginia, which he and the current landowners claim is a paleo-calendar, and announced it as the oldest, extant above-ground site in North America. However, the results of his work at the site have not yet been peer-reviewed and it remains to be seen whether the rocky areas are natural or cultural



Diane Schug-O'Neill

features, or if there are any Paleoindian artifacts present.



Yvonne French, Mike Johnson, Berno Topps

Among the growing list of features claimed for the 2-mile complex are a series of concentric rock rings and associated fire hearth, rock art including two sets of "hand prints", direct alignment with both solar solstices, alignment east-to-west with the seasonal equinoxes, a lunar focus, as well as the site's major feature, a stone altar which also aligns with the summer solstice. No other known Paleoindian sites exist with any of these features, casting doubt on the age and validity of the site.

In addition to the Spout Run site, his major Virginia excavations were the Fout, Fisher, and Tanner sites. Hranicky participated in close to 50 other excavations. He described the early people who roamed the area approximately 12,000 years ago as "Virginia's first Engineers."

He performed close to 200 artifact collection appraisals, from Missouri to Florida to New York. Additionally, he mediated the turnover of the Maryland's Sandy Hill Adena Cache to the Public Domain. Hranicky has served as president of the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) and served on its executive board for 30 years. He served as the President of Eastern States Archeological Federation (ESAF), [10] been served as past chairman of the Alexandria Archaeology Commission, and he was a charter member of both the RPA and Council of Virginia Archeologist.

He was a life member of the Archeological Society of Virginia and Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. He ran the Virginia Rockart Survey and the McCary Fluted Point Survey. Hranicky did his undergraduate at the Virginia Commonwealth University and graduate studies at the University of Oklahoma. According to the registrar's offices at the Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Oklahoma, he received a B.S. in sociology from the former in 1970, and attended the latter for one semester in 1983, studying communication but not receiving a degree.

The article and information about Jack Hranicky are taken directly from Wikipedia. The reader is encouraged to visit the Wikipedia article for secondary bibliographical information.

Wikimedia Foundation. (2023, July 11). *Jack Hranicky*. Wikipedia.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Hranicky

Monthly Book Review

By Ishtar Watson

BLACKWELL COMPANIONS TO THE ANCIENT WORLD

A COMPANION TO
**WOMEN
IN THE ANCIENT
WORLD**

EDITED BY SHARON L. JAMES
AND SHEILA DILLON



WILEY Blackwell

A Companion to Women in the Ancient World, 1st Edition

Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World, Wiley Blackwell Publishing, 1st Edition.

By Sharon L. James & Sheila Dillon (Eds.)

A Companion to Women in the Ancient World is a well-edited and fascinating 616-page compilation of 45 archaeological and anthropological papers and case studies on the lives and roles of women in the ancient world from roughly 2,500 BCE to the mid-6th century CE. The book generally focuses on classical antiquity in Europe, North Africa, Anatolia, and the Middle East.

Of particular interest was Dr. Barbara Levick's paper, *Women and Law*. It is a brief yet informative synopsis of the legal standing of women from ancient Greece to Rome, with many interesting examples of how laws applied to women, often differently from the rest of society.

Perhaps what is most intriguing about this paper are the many examples Dr. Levick uses to "pepper" her paper with the spice of example, reminding the reader that these were real people with real lives.

Also of note was Dr. Lindsay Allason-Jones' paper, *Women in Roman Britain*, an interesting look at the physical evidence left by women in Roman-occupied Britain and Caledonia. Dr. Allason-Jones' paper was of particular interest as it discussed many examples of the unseen world of women, so often left undocumented. One example would be a woman named Flavia Baetica, the wife of a centurion serving at Antonine's Wall. We know little about Flavia and her life, but we know she existed because her name is carved onto a stone marker found near Antonine's Wall. She is one of several women Dr. Allason-Jones discussed as she brings to life small notes of the lives of women from nearly two millennia ago.¹

I was quite captivated by this fascinating paper that goes on to interpret and discuss the lifeways and even cultural norms of ancient women by examining the nearly hidden clues they left behind: combs, grave markers, letters to their friends—a wide variety of material culture.

Overall, the papers were brief, somewhat summarized, and generally informative. Each came with a useful bibliography for further reading and provided a good primer for the topic of women's studies in classical antiquity. Overall, I would recommend checking this book out of the library for a good read if you are interested in the topics of women's studies and the ancient world. But, for the cost, I am not sure I would recommend purchasing a new copy, especially if you are studying these subjects, as none of the papers really go deeply enough into their topics for proper academic analysis, tending more toward academically themed surveys of their subjects.

If you enjoyed this section, please feel free to ask the *Datum Point* editor about including your own book review of archaeological and associated books.

¹ Allason-Jones, L. (2015). Women in Rome Britain. In S. L. James & S. Dillon (Eds.), *A Companion to Women in the Ancient World* (1st ed., Ser. Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World, p. 475), John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

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Please make check payable to NVC/ASV.

Return to:

Barbara Leven, Treasurer, NVC/ASV

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The Chapter meets at 7:30p.m. on the 2nd Wed. of each month. Meetings may take place in-person and/or on Zoom. Details with start time and on-line/in-person information will be provided in the *Datum Point* newsletter prior to each meeting.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!