



DON W. DRAGOO¹
1925–1988

Don W. Dragoo was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 4, 1925. He married Dorothy Wallace of Goshen, Indiana, in 1946. They were divorced in 1971. In 1971, he married Christine Worthington of Ashton-in-Makerfield, England. His only child, Stephen W. Dragoo, was born in 1960. Don died on August 27, 1988.

Don's major interests lay in archaeology and physical anthropology. He specialized in the pre-historic and early historic cultures of eastern North America with specific concentration on the upper Ohio Valley, the mid-Atlantic area, and the Southeast. He always was concerned with theory and method in archaeology and with archaeology's position as a subdivision of anthropology. His interest recently focused on programs to conserve the archaeological data base.

Dragoo worked in 22 states and in 10 foreign countries. His first serious participation in fieldwork was at the Angel Mound site in Indiana during his undergraduate days at Indiana University. He trained under the direction of Glenn A. Black, an excavator renowned for meticulous care in excavation, recording, and care of specimens. In Dragoo Black had an apt pupil, and it was Don's devotion to exactness in the field that first attracted my attention to him.

Some time ago Don drew up for his use a survey of the range and character of his field experience, and I draw upon it heavily here. In the southeastern United States he listed studies in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. While his interests and activities spanned the range of prehistoric and early historical-period sites and cultures, from his first involvement with West Virginia sites in 1952 he evidenced special interest in the Paleoindian, Archaic, and Early Woodland periods. His involvement in states far from his home base in Pittsburgh enabled such publications as his "Archaic Hunters of the Upper Ohio Valley" (1959a) and "Mounds for the Dead" (1963) to have a fuller, deeper texture than had his work and his experience been limited to the Carnegie Museum base, the upper Ohio Valley.

He worked with some of the most active and productive researchers, professional and nonprofes-

American Antiquity, 54(4), 1989, pp. 683–687.
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sional, of the time: in Alabama with Daniel Josselyn and other members of the Alabama Archaeological Society, in Florida with Ripley B. Bullen of the Florida State Museum, in Kentucky with William S. Webb of the University of Kentucky, and in Virginia with Ben C. McCary of William and Mary. It was largely due to the relationships he was able to establish with such men and their associates that enabled his studies in their areas to be so successful.

The record for the Middle Atlantic states and particularly for the upper Ohio Valley enclave is quite full. For the Pennsylvania portion of the area, he noted participation in initial recording or survey for more than 2,500 sites. All major periods described for the northeastern United States were represented in that record. Initially under assignment and later on his own initiative, he conducted special studies of Late Prehistoric Monongahela, Adena, Archaic, and Paleoindian sites. Notably, he directed excavations at the Johnston, Campbell, Hartley, Edenburgh, Shriver, Ohioview, Kinzue, Cornplanter, and Georgetown sites, excavations from which were drawn many of the understandings on which appreciation of prehistory in the area is founded. In the contiguous Middle Atlantic states, he participated as consultant and adviser for the work on the St. Jones River Burial Cult site in Delaware and conducted an archaeological survey of the upper Potomac River drainage as much to satisfy his curiosity about the drainage in relation to problems originating in the upper Ohio Valley as to satisfy a contract. His involvement in Adena Studies led to considerable association with Ray Baby and his Ohio State Museum and Ohio State University colleagues.

In the northeastern United States, his initial work in New York was conducted in that area of southwestern New York considered to be part of the upper Ohio Valley. It was here that he first worked with William A. Ritchie, thus beginning many years of productive collaboration. Don's New York studies, begun in 1952 and continued as part of his Carnegie Museum association until he left the museum in 1977, were resumed after that time as contracted surveys and excavations for others.

His initial archaeological experience was in the Lower Great Lakes region where he was born and educated. In his home state of Indiana, he worked at the Angel site during 1948–1950, performed county archaeological surveys in 1949 and 1950 for the Indiana Historical Bureau, and studied Adena and Paleoindian sites and materials in 1959 and again in 1968. Eastern Ohio counties lay within the upper Ohio Valley, of course, and Don worked extensively in that area from 1952 forward. Special studies in the region included his work on Paleoindian, Archaic, and, as one would suspect of persons working in Ohio, Adena, his particular interest.

While pursuing graduate studies at the University of New Mexico from 1949 to 1950, he performed a field study of early lithic sites in the Rio Grande and Rio Puerco areas of Sandoval County. He took advantage of his sojourn in the area to visit and study many of the Pueblo and Basketmaker sites in the state. In 1978 he directed both a cultural resources survey of Stephens County in northern Texas and the Sanderson County site mitigation program in Terrell, Pecos, and Brewster counties in west Texas, essentially an extensive study of hunter-gatherer manifestations in the Rio Grande Valley.

During the period 1977–1979 he was principal investigator and program director for the excavation of the large North Bonneville site just south of the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River, Washington. More than 40 scientists and technicians were involved in this 1.25-million-dollar multidisciplinary project conducted for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A beautifully stratified site, it consisted of a series of historic, protohistoric, and prehistoric remains that included the remains of a complete Chinook village.

In pursuit of information concerning assignments and subjects of his special interest, in addition to his extensive fieldwork, Don worked with many eminent researchers among their collections and in their laboratories. At the University of Michigan he consulted with James B. Griffin and Emerson Greenman on burial-cult practices and prehistoric ceramics. Working in Massachusetts on Paleoindian, Archaic, and burial-cult sites, he consulted with Maurice Robbins of the Bronson Museum. His study of the full spectrum of New Jersey sites required consultation with Dorothy Cross of the New Jersey State Museum. He was consultant to the University of Vermont during the excavation and analysis of the burial-cult site at Swanton. He studied the Calico site in California in company with L. S. B. Leakey and Ruth D. Simpson and participated in the international Calico Conference.

Some Carnegie Museum staff members remember the visit of François Bordes of the University of Bordeaux to the museum's Meridian station and the discussion there of the significance of Calico. Don's inquisitive nature carried him as well on brief, relatively unfocused visits to become acquainted with sites, collections, and investigators in another 13 or so states in addition to those in which he "worked."

His interest in Native American studies carried him beyond the bounds of the United States, for he knew that to understand Native Americans of the upper Ohio Valley, we must consider the cultures of their relatives to the north. He carried out extensive studies of sites and collections in Canada to enable him to study more effectively Paleoindian, proto-Iroquoian, and Iroquoian manifestations in the Carnegie Museum heart area. He focused on the Canadian area and sites particularly during the years 1963, 1965–1966, 1968–1970, and 1973–1976. Special attention was paid to the Sheguindah site in Ontario and the Debort site in Nova Scotia, as well as to collections in the National Museum of Canada, the Royal Ontario Museum, and pertinent regional institutions.

It was emblematic of his desire to enlarge his knowledge and experience, beyond whatever would be his eventual specific geographical focus, that spurred him in 1951 to take part in the expedition to the Wadi Beihan in South Arabia. Developed by the American Foundation for the Study of Man, this expedition studied two sites, Timna and Hajar bin Humeid, along the ancient spice route. In charge of the work at Hajar bin Humeid, he performed so admirably that I was determined to hire him to work for me when opportunity arose as it did two years later. He saw this opportunity to work in an area known to but a fraction of the world as an enlarging experience destined to improve his performance upon return to his home country.

One of his engrossing interests was the technical resemblance of tool manufacture of very early Old World and New World cultures, and to enlarge his acquaintance and understanding in that field, he met and/or corresponded with a number of leading researchers. Bordes was mentioned above. Others were L. S. B. Leakey, Raymond Dart, G. H. von Koenigswald, and N. W. G. Macintosh.

In 1968 he worked in Japan with Chosuke Serizawa on a comparative study of early lithic complexes of Japan and the New World. Three years later he was in Australia and Tasmania pursuing the same study. He took advantage of the Australian visit to work with Macintosh at the University of Sydney on the physical anthropology of Native Australians, thus returning to an area of special interest that had begun with his four-year apprenticeship at Indiana University under George Neumann.

In 1972 he made an extensive study trip to England, France, and Italy. With Bordes he studied the lithic technologies of Middle and Upper Paleolithic cultures of the Dordogne and Vézère valleys of France.

From 1959 through 1963 he participated with George M. Murdoch and John Gillen in establishing the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh. During the years of this association, he taught general and special courses in Old and New World prehistory, physical anthropology, archaeological field methods and techniques, general cultural anthropology, and museology.

His editorial and consultant activities were many. He served as editor, *Archaeological Newsletter, Carnegie Museum*, 1963–1977; associate editor, *Ethnology*, University of Pittsburgh, 1962–1963; associate editor, *Publications in Archaeology, Maryland Geological Survey*, from 1973 on; editorial chairman, *Annals of the Carnegie Museum*, 1967–1968; collaborator, *Abstracts of New World Archaeology*, Society for American Archaeology, 1965–1967; member, Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historic Commission, 1976–1977; technical consultant, West Virginia Archeological Society, 1957–1965; consultant, National Science Foundation, from 1963 on; consultant, West Virginia Geological Survey, from 1965 on; consultant, National Park Service, Northeast Region, 1965–1973; consultant, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh and Buffalo districts, 1971–1976; and consultant, General Analytics Consultants, Pittsburgh, 1974–1977; and consultant to other governmental, educational, and business organizations.

His career listings above insofar as they apply to his museum work required vigorous and successful management in many areas: care, study, and preservation of collections; direction of research programs; design and content of exhibit and educational programs; participation in regional, national,

and international museum and scientific affairs; fund raising; personnel management; training of students both national and international; public relations; as a senior curator advising on major museum-policy decisions; and advertisement of Carnegie Museum programs in anthropology (for instance, in 1957 he gave 33 public lectures).

He was extremely active in organizations relative to his anthropological and museological careers and his professional affiliations included: fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; fellow of the American Anthropological Association; past president and treasurer, Eastern States Archaeological Federation; registered archaeologist, Society of Professional Archaeologists; past vice president, Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology; past president, Ohio Valley Archaeological Conference; and participating member of the American Association of Museums; Society for American Archaeology; Society of the Sigma Xi; International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences; International Congress of Americanists; International Congress of Orientalists; Pacific Science Congress; Southeastern Archaeological Conference; Central States Anthropological Society; National Historical Society; Indiana Academy of Sciences; Indiana Historical Society; Texas Council of Archaeology; Archaeological Society of Virginia; Society for Archaeological Sciences; and other state and local organizations.

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NOTE

- ¹ The sketch of Don W. Dragoo was drawn by Cliff Morrow.