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PRESIDENT'S PAGE



George H. Colvin

President's Page

It is with sadness that I share the death of Tony DeRegnaucourt. Tony was a professional archaeologist and recently served as trustee of the society. He passed away on October 17, 2011. We were not able to get an obituary in this journal, but one will follow in the next journal.

Mark your calendars and join us for the first (in a long time) ASO birdstone show on November 20, 2011 at the Aladdin Shrine Temple in Columbus, Ohio. This special show will feature the birdstone collections of Ken Simper of Hamilton, Indiana, plus many others. Plan to bring and display your birdstones. We are hoping to have the largest display of birdstones ever under one roof. Our Editor, Robert Converse will speak on the enigmatic birdstone at 10:30. When was the last time you listened to someone speak on birdstones?

See you at the show.

Sincerely,

George H. Colvin

Front Cover: I first saw this unusual pipe in 1961 when George Morelock of Marysville, Ohio, showed it to me. It, along with a few arrowheads, was part of his family's treasures handed down through several generations. Strangely, we had ancestors in common back in our great grandparents' day. I, of course, tried to get the pipe from George but he said he wanted to keep it in the family. Because of my interest in prehistoric artifacts, George and his wife Virginia became full-time surface hunters. It had become a full-time avocation for them. They had become collectors. Even though George and I worked together for twenty-five years, I never could talk him out of his pipe (which I had seen only one time but remembered it well). In fact, because of George and Virginia Morelock's interest in archaeology, their son Mike became an archaeologist and is now employed at the Cahokia complex in Illinois.

Unfortunately, my long-time friend George Morelock passed away this year. His wife Virginia preceded him in death and he had remarried. When asked to appraise his collection, I met Mike Morelock for the first time in more than thirty years. I asked him about the pipe and he said he still had it and that it had been used in displays at Cahokia. I told him to keep it safe and that I hadn't seen it in fifty years.

However, I had told two of my dearest and best friends about this unique pipe and in casual conversation said that I probably would never see it again. About two weeks later, my best friend told me he had something he wanted to show me and held out a sandstone effigy pipe. He asked me if I remembered it and I told him I not only remembered it after having not seen it for over fifty years, but that I would never forget it. He then told me it was mine - my two friends had obtained it from another friend, Mike Morelock, who told me to take care of it.

So after more than half a century, with the help of irreplaceable friends, the pipe was finally mine and I will take care of it.

This outstanding Fort Ancient pipe was found in Union County, Ohio, near Milford Center.