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Message from the President

“History-ing”

By Adam Amspacher

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Adam
Amspacher
(717) 479-6921

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Tim Tuttle
(419) 343-9412

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(856) 332-2792

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Gary Fogelman
(570) 437-3698

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Editor:

Mike Gilbert
(610) 797-0184

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John Selmer
J.Selmer@erols.com

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According to the New World Encyclopedia, the term “history” originally came from Greek word of *historia* meaning, “the act of seeking knowledge”. We as artifact enthusiasts and collectors are most often enamored by history as it pertains to ancient peoples and their way of life. For some, it may bring us a closer feeling to our ancestors. For others, the appreciation of their craftsmanship and ingenuity leaves us pondering about their day-to-day interactions, occupations and conflicts.

History infiltrates most every aspect of our lives. Political history, cultural history, history with a past or present significant other, ancestral history and much more shape our views, thoughts and assumptions. We rely on what we learned from past events and apply them to the future. We will often change our actions based on what worked well and what did not pan out as we expected. If this history is not written, told orally or somehow recorded, it is easily lost. Essentially, for there to be history, there needs to be a thing, a thought, or memory that records it.

Specifically to North American ancient artifacts, we rely on the “thing” to record the history. In the contact period we begin relying on thoughts and memories recorded however the majority of the history on this side of the world has not been written. These “things” are the artifacts we collect, speculate about, hypothesize and attempt to prove their use. Their history, or record of the past, include but not limited to where they came from, what they were found with and who found them. Each time an artifact is found, the finder is able to give a written historical account of the artifact for the first time since it was created (in some instances 12,000-15,000 years). We not only have the item, but can now add the thoughts and memories to these items.

My action call to my fellow friends and collectors: Ensure the thoughts and memories remain as intact as the item itself. Sometimes, the information has already been lost, but many times we have the information and are looking to ensure, long after we are gone, that the thoughts and memories of an artifact are everlasting.

You might be thinking, “Interesting thought, but how do we do this?” I am going to list things that I have come up with or observed over the years, however I would enjoy hearing from all of you on your thoughts about this topic. Please email us at IACANE or comment on our Facebook about your thoughts or what you currently are doing to preserve this history.

- Central database for all collection ID labels/abbreviations/markings. I, and many others, have already started a small collection of these based on collections I know of or I have purchased/been consigned through Marburg Auctions. I feel this is the most realistic idea/adoptable idea by most. Perhaps we can put our brains together?
- Common collection number system (state museum has their current system however the sites and numbers are not all publicly shared).
- Central database for collectors to search specific artifacts- Jim Bennett has been working on one for their current auction database, is there a way to use this system for all individuals to add?

- Writing directly on the piece with specific info (great for larger items however difficult for smaller pieces/arrowheads). Another question is posed- which method is best for “writing” on an artifact. The museum uses B-72 (solvent with acetone) that can be removed from most stone types (porous stone like argillite is difficult regardless) as a base layer and then uses fine tip marker and seals with another clear layer. Others use washable ink on points, gel ink, etc.
- Use of labels is a bit problematic as they tend to either fade, wear off, or fall off over time (if we are thinking LONG term).

The Barrett Cache

By Mike Barrett and Richard Gulyas

Every year in early June I take a 3-day trip to see my friend Rich in Bradford County to look for artifacts and spend time with him and his family. Rich has been a good friend since high school which is now a good 40 years. I always look forward to this annual adventure as we have a great time regardless of our success in the fields. As artifact hunters, we hope for an early plow and plentiful rainfall in late May and early June. This year, 2023, however, we had the driest May on record, so I didn't have the highest hopes of finding too many treasures. No till farming has also become quite popular on many of the sights we explore. Thankfully my premonitions turned out to be all wrong.

It's a good 4-hour ride to get to Rich's, so he headed out to look before I arrived. Thoughtfully Rich decided to hunt the banks of the Susquehanna since the river was so low and the fields dry as a bone. Remarkably Rich came upon a pile of net weights laying right on the surface of a bank about halfway up. He poked around the spot and ended up finding 32 net weights and amazingly part of the original cordage of the net! The cordage was in a layer of very thick clay which we thought was likely how it remained preserved. It seemed apparent that the net had been dragged up the bank and left there. Rich had to leave the site as I was due to arrive shortly.



The Barrett Net Weight Cache

When I arrived, Rich showed me what he had found, and I nearly hit the floor. Wow! I had never seen a find of such magnitude before. So exciting. We headed out to a few sites that had gotten some rain with very little luck. Rich did find a pretty little Levanna that was all there. As evening approached, so was an intense thunderstorm. We decided to go back to the net weight site before the rain hit. We found another 9 weights and I had my hand on another one deep in the bank. The rain started but we weren't leaving until I got that last one out. I got it and we hustled on back to the truck all wet and nasty, but we had 10 more weights!

Of course, the next morning we packed up some pokers and went back to the site. There had to be more net weights there. We quickly found another 6 and figured we must get to an even 50 in total. We kept on poking. Surprisingly every stone we hit was a net weight. No other stones were in the bank which surely made things a little easier. I hit one more and then the frenzy was on to get that 50th one. After a few minutes, I hit a stone and Rich turned in excitement as my heart raced. Sure enough, it was number 50! We jumped and screamed and carried on like a bunch of school kids, but as you readers know, we were so thrilled. Rich said that's it, we're done here. So, we moved on. The smallest net weight was 1-1/2 inches in length and the largest was 3-1/2 inches.

We decided to hunt along another bank that was below a site we normally search in plowed fields. Walking the banks of the Susquehanna is not as easy as it may seem. Downed trees, poison ivy, steep banks, and pricker bushes provide significant obstacles but we trudged on. Suddenly Rich screamed out "there's a big piece of pottery!" Of course, he was right. I don't know how he saw it, but he did. It was a large piece of highly decorated Owasco pottery roughly 6 inches by 6 inches sticking out of the bank. We started searching around for more. The site was likely a trash pit as we found 5 more large pieces of the pot, a broken Levanna, and two hammer stones. Finding all these things was so exciting for me especially because I don't find sites like this down my way in Bucks County. We also saw 10 Bald Eagles on the river which capped off a perfect day.

The trip I thought wasn't going to produce a whole lot of artifacts turned out to be the trip we found more than in any other year. Besides our finds, we had our usual fun evenings relaxing with a cold one or two and enjoying family and good food. I can't wait to see what might happen next year!

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## **LIVE AND LEARN....Then Learn Some More**

by Gary L. Fogelman

For a number of years, Alan Atkins and I have been tripping to the Collinsville, Illinois artifact show, the Kentucky Dam artifact show and some shows in Ohio. It was at one of these several years ago that I ran into an old acquaintance whom I met many years ago while traveling to southern shows during the early days of IAM.

This acquaintance also traveled to various shows to set up and sell. While viewing his display at one of these shows I noticed he had a couple of steatite maskettes. I inquired as to where they were from and he said they were from the Daisy Site in Lancaster County, Penna. He had obtained them from a collection of material from the Cottonlandia Museum in Mississippi that the museum had obtained from G.B. Fenstermaker, a noted collector of sites at Washington Boro in Lancaster County, Pa. The acquaintance early on was not disposed to letting loose of the maskettes, but he had let go of other material from the collection which included pipes, beads and pottery, most of which went to Rich Johnston for dispersal.

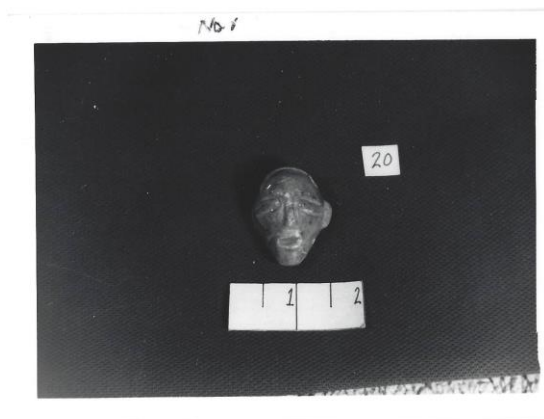
Years move on and at the Kentucky Dam show of 2023 I once again ran into the acquaintance and he, like me, is dispersing more than collecting and was now ready to move the maskettes. I thought it would be nice to get them back to the Northeast. Believing that G. B. Fenstermaker was a collector of note, and that the maskettes came from a museum collection, what could be better, right?

Over the years I had noted and seen maskettes that occurred on Lancaster County sites. I even had one years ago when I purchased the Martin Heisy collection. I show this one in Booklet No. 48 of the Pennsylvania Artifact Series and note that it may have been off a pipe. All these years removed I cannot now say what led me to that conclusion.

The fact that these found their way to Mississippi didn't concern me for I knew that bead researchers Marvin Smith and Mary Elizabeth Good had contact with Fenstermaker during their research on early Spanish beads. In fact, they note only one site in Pennsylvania in their book, the Daisy Site. I figured Fenstermaker contributed to their museum with the material previously mentioned. I didn't recall ever seeing these maskettes published anywhere, but again that might be understood what with all the material that was coming off the Washington Boro sites at that time. Turns out that was a second red flag that went unheeded.

My comments in this article are centered on the steatite maskettes. There are other forms of maskettes, usually of Catlinite or red shale, that differ by being rendered on generally flat surfaced, quarter sized and shaped pieces. These were made by both the Iroquois and the Delaware peoples. There's also the well-known September Morn figurines of antler or bone which contain the facial configuration like that found on the Catlinite examples, which I term the Spirit Face. Although there are some steatite or serpentine maskettes along the same lines as the Catlinite specimens, there's another form on steatite which differs in form and features. The facial features are usually rendered on a protruding, rounded surface and resemble more an actual face with eyes, nose, mouth and sometimes ears depicted.

The ones from the Daisy site that ended up In Mississippi were of this nature. The Daisy site, by the way, was named after Fenstermaker's wife. The site is actually one of several cemeteries connected with the big Washington Boro stage village of c. 1600-1640. Interestingly, I was on the site many years ago and didn't know it. I was with a friend who was showing me around the area, and he took me to a friend of his and the site was in this guy's back yard where he had a trench opened up. There were no burials evident, and it looked to me like he was working a refuse dump. So now I have the maskettes home and begin research by looking through reference books for other examples. I found two of this nature, along with other forms, in my Booklet No. 48. One was in the Bowser collection at the time and the other was the previously mentioned Heisey piece. The one from the Bowser collection is also shown in Kinsey (1977), p.96.



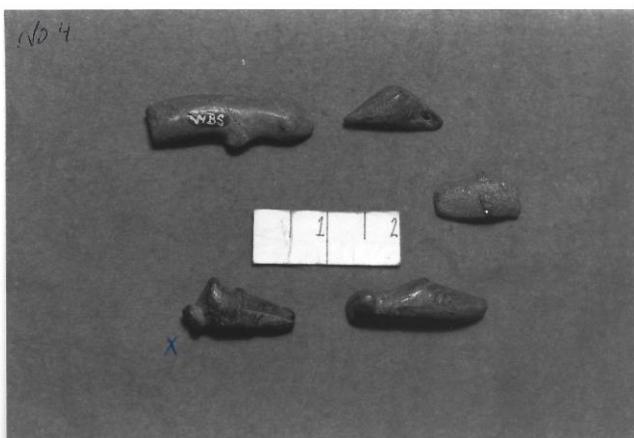
Above left is maskette from the Bowser Coll. \*\*\*\*\* On Right is from the M. Heisey Coll.

Research also revealed an example similar to the Bowser piece and it's shown in both *Susquehannock Miscellany* (p.151), and in *Susquehannock Indians of Pennsylvania* (p.107).

Also in this vein is the one from the Lemoyne Site, shown on the cover of *The Susquehannocks: New Perspectives on Settlement and Cultural Identity*. It seems that published examples of this form are rare, and the fact that Fenstermaker didn't publish the ones sent to Mississippi is telling.

As part of my research, I sent photos to Jim Herbstritt of the State Museum who has spent a considerable part of his career researching the evolution of the Susquehannocks. His comment that "They are extremely fine examples" was a nice way of saying they're too nice and I didn't fail to pick up on that. He also informed me that Fenstermaker had fabricated some maskettes that he gave to friends. This was the first time I had heard of this.

I was to hear it again though, for I also sent pictures to Paul Frey, who has collected artifacts of this nature and time period for quite some time. He noted that they were out of character of known examples, something I also noticed when viewing the published examples. The pieces themselves didn't reveal any nicks, dings, scratches, breakage or wear and tear that all others exhibited. This too might be explainable if these were burial pieces that had been cleaned by the finder. But everything together now had 4 or 5 red flags that led to the conclusion that these were no doubt made by G.B. Fenstermaker. They are shown in the two photos below.



Left- An assortment of other steatite forms that also occur at this time and include wolf, bear and bird heads, turtle forms and what looks like a possible lizard form.

Also shown in *Susquehannock Miscellany* and *Susquehannock Indians in Pennsylvania* is a full figure steatite "September Morn" figure but these 'dolls' as Fenstermaker called them are in question as to authenticity and may also be Fenstermaker fabrications.

So, my unfamiliarity with enough of the artifact type, coupled with their museum connection and association with G.B. Fenstermaker led to a letting down of the guard. Fortunately, I was able to return the pieces, but in the end, as the title says, Live and Learn, then Learn Some More.

## REFERENCES:

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## Some memorable stories from over 55 years of hunting relics.

By Lee Hallman

Once, while in Colorado, we were visiting my wife's brother-in-law. Now, there are not many farms out there and I didn't want to miss a chance to do a little artifact hunting. I decided to try looking in the gravel bars of the North Platte River. I'd been walking for a while, finding a couple flaked knives and chips of worked material. Suddenly, the hair on the back of my neck raised up and my spirit inside me said stop and look around. That's when I saw snakes, not just a couple, but lots of them. I had walked into the middle of a rattlesnake den. I froze at first, then picked up a large rock and threw it into the middle of the reptiles. I got out of there as fast as I could move. Luckily, all in one piece.

Our family went camping at Lake Wallenpaupack in the Poconos. We could rent rowboats for fishing. The lake has islands where you can sometimes find arrowheads. To get on the islands, you have to pick up speed in the water and glide up on the bank for a landing. The boat landed and I got out and searched the whole beach. As I got back to the boat, I saw an arrowhead 4 inches long laying in the water. Its tip was missing. As I came around the other side of the boat, I saw the missing tip in the water. I had landed the boat right between the two pieces! I got both the pieces, put them together and had a very nice 6-inch Onondaga piece.

I had a site next to a golf course that I hunted. The 8<sup>th</sup> hole was next to a road and a tree boundary. It was a wet day and I was hunting artifacts. There was a set of footprints that appeared to be chasing a golf ball. The tracks were clear to me, so I followed the tracks into a field that was recently plowed. The ball had come to rest about 12 inches or so near a six-inch quartzite spear. The tracks led right up to both the golf ball and the spear. The tracks were so that it seemed this golfer straddled the ball right between his feet and hit the ball back to the golf course, never seeing the spear. Even though it was right between his feet, he didn't pick it up the spear. I did pick it up and I couldn't help but wonder what was wrong with this fellow's eyesight. A six-inch quartzite blade was added to my collection.

## In memory of Orson Kirk Spurr

This past summer, on June 30th, Orson Kirk Spurr passed away at the age of 92. Kirk was a well-known and respected member of IACANE, serving as club Secretary and on our Board of Directors for many years. He was a familiar and friendly face at most of our artifact shows.

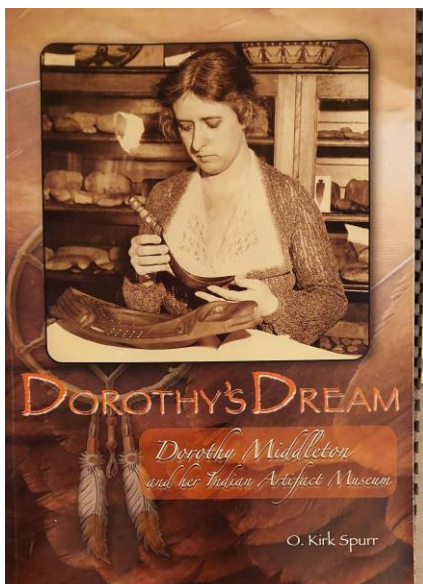
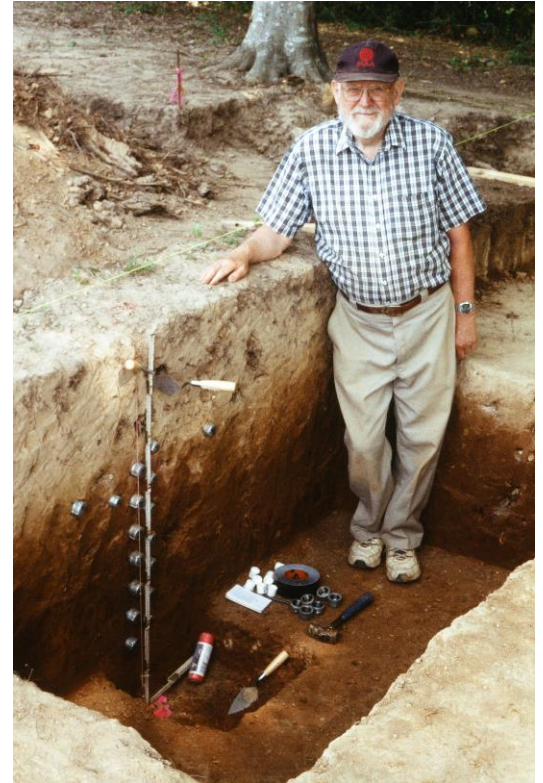
Kirk was born in the small town of Cambridge, New York very close to the Vermont border. He attended Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire earning an AB degree in chemistry. He continued his education at Cornell University where he earned MS and PhD degrees in physical chemistry. Kirk was married to Janet Nelson for 41 years and they had two children, James Spurr and Linda Spurr Servoss.

He worked as a research chemist for the Engineering Plastics Division of Union Carbide for 27 years. Kirk then worked for 3 years post-retirement for the Amoco Chemical Division of Amoco Oil-Corp in Bound Brook, NJ.

Following the loss of his wife to Alzheimer's disease in 1994, Kirk began a new avocation as an amateur archaeologist and artifact collector. This interest sprang from many summer visits to Moosehead Lake, ME where his family had a camp near numerous ancient Indian campsites and not far from the ancient rhyolite quarry on Kineo Mountain. He participated in over 40 archaeological excavations in 11 states. Many of these excavations were done under the direction of Dr. R.M. Gramly.

Kirk belonged to a number of organizations. He was a member of ASAA, its Northeast Chapter, GICRS, Maine Archaeological Society, Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Archaeological Society of New Jersey, Archaeological Society of Ohio, Piedmont Archaeological Society/CSAS, and IACANE. In addition to publishing several articles about his archaeological experiences, Kirk also wrote an outstanding book about Dorothy Middleton and her museum entitled *Dorothy's Dream*. It is an excellent account describing Dorothy Middleton's life, the Thunderbird Museum, and details about some of the artifacts in her collection.

In addition to his son and daughter, Kirk is survived by Grandson Kyle Spurr, Granddaughters Myanda, Julia, and Genevieve Servoss. He also had two great-grandchildren, Gwendolyn Servoss and Luca Spurr. May he rest peacefully, he will be missed very much.



We greatly appreciate the help from Dr. R.M. Gramly for providing his photo of Kirk and the use of text from the tab on the back cover of Kirk's book. Ed.

# York County Artifact Show 2024





## York Co. Best of Show Award Winners

Best Large Projectile 3" or over- John Selmer for his Crowfield Knife.

Best Small Projectile under 3"- Jerry Beaver for his jasper Jack's Reef

Best Personal Find of the year- Keith Cicero for his Quartz crystalline Bare Island

Best Projectile Frame- Mick Wilhide for his jasper frame

Best non-Projectile Frame- Jerry Beaver for his pipe frame

Best Tool/Utilitarian Object- Wayne Shelby for his knobbed adze

Best Drilled Stone Artifact- Walt Podpora for his Birdstone

Best Unique Artifact- John Selmer for his paleo tool



## Update for York County Artifact Show:

Submitted by Adam Amspacher

I want to start out by saying thank you to everyone that assisted on this new adventure for me as this was my first show! Overall this show was well attended and fell on a beautiful day in February (I can not say that too often). We were in the "green" money wise for the show and had some fun events occur including:

- Break your own geode for the Kiddos
- Mock Archaeology excavation
- Archaeology Storytime
- Best of Show Awards

The facts and figures for the Show are as follows:

- 212 people attended total
- 120 non-members (paid to enter)
- 58 Kiddos under 12
- 34 Members through the door  
(Excluding members setting up)



# Indian Relic Show



## Marysville, PA

### **Educational Displays - Buy - Sell - Trade**

Authentic Indian relics from Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region and Northeastern USA. Books, display cases and possibly some Civil War items.

Bring your relics for free evaluation & appraisal.

**Marysville Lions Club located just off Route 15 in Marysville, Pennsylvania.**

Address: Marysville Lions Club, 15 Park Drive, Marysville, PA 17053

**Saturday – April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**From 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM**

General Admission \$4.00, children under 12 free

Sponsored by IACANE (Indian Artifact Collectors Association of the Northeast)

For Information call: Damon Thayer (410) 490-7411

Email: [tandainc@aol.com](mailto:tandainc@aol.com)

# IACANE SHOWS FOR 2024

Indian Artifact Collectors Association of the Northeast

## YORK COUNTY ARTIFACT SHOW

Dover Township Fire Hall  
3706 Davidsburg Road, Dover, PA 17315

**Saturday FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Adam Amspacher 717-479-6921

E-mail: [Adam.Amspacher@gmail.com](mailto:Adam.Amspacher@gmail.com)

## MARYSVILLE RELIC SHOW

Marysville Lions Club  
Route 11/15, 15 Park Drive, Marysville, PA 17053

**Saturday APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Damon Thayer 410-490-7411

E-mail: [tandainc@aol.com](mailto:tandainc@aol.com)

## LEHIGH VALLEY RELIC SHOW

Schnecksville Fire Company  
4550 Old Packhouse Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078

**Saturday JULY 20<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Roy Knieriem 215-416-7438

E-mail: [rknieriemjr@gmail.com](mailto:rknieriemjr@gmail.com)

## ROASTING EARS OF CORN FESTIVAL

Museum of Indian Culture  
2825 Fish Hatchery Road, Allentown, PA 18103

**August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am to 6:00 pm (rain or shine) - \$8.00pp

NON-IACANE SPONSORED EVENT

MEMBERS DO DISPLAY AND SET UP!

## CORNING, NY RELIC SHOW

Crystal City VFW Post 524  
281 Baker Street, Corning, NY 14830

**Saturday SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Tim Tuttle 419-343-9412

E-mail: [Tecumsehtj@aol.com](mailto:Tecumsehtj@aol.com)

## BERKS COUNTY RELIC SHOW

Leesport Farmers Market  
312 Gernants Church Road, Leesport, PA 19533

**\*\*SUNDAY\*\* OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Roy Knieriem 215-416-7438

E-mail: [rknieriemjr@gmail.com](mailto:rknieriemjr@gmail.com)

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## 2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR IACANE & CSAS INDIAN ARTIFACT COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHEAST CENTRAL STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

(E-mail is for Club information only. It is used for notifications regarding Shows, News, & Updates.)

For IACANE Newsletter (*The Headhunter*), please check one:

- IACANE will mail a hard copy to above address.
- I'll retrieve on-line version myself.

For CSAS members, the Central States Archaeological Journal is mailed to above address.

### MEMBERSHIP RUNS CALENDAR YEAR (circle only one below):

|                                             |                                                      |                                      |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Single IACANE Only: \$12                    | Family IACANE Only: \$15                             | IACANE <b><i>Plus</i></b> CSAS: \$26 |
| Lifetime IACANE Only: \$150 (One Time Dues) | IACANE Lifetime Members <b><i>Add</i></b> CSAS: \$18 |                                      |

Send Application & Check made payable to ***IACANE*** to:  
Roy Knieriem, 1970 Station Avenue, Center Valley, PA 18034