

ECHACHIST



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A PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND ANALYSIS WITH ETHNOGRAPHIC
NOTES

PREPARED FOR

THE TLA-OQUI-AHT FIRST NATION

BY

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WITH

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INTRODUCTION

At the request of Nupit-Tuch-Chilth (Joe Martin), in his capacity as Tla-o-qui-aht representative, resident of Echachist and Director of the Tonquin Foundation and with the written support of Nuukmiis (Robert Martin), Hawilth of Iiwasah, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, a small team conducted an archaeological reconnaissance at Echachist Island on August 28th and 29th, 2004. As you are aware, the Tonquin Foundation is committed to the exploration, preservation and interpretation of the rich cultural heritage of Clayoquot Sound and beyond.

Its' field investigations to date have focussed on the site of a possible shipwreck in Templar Channel that may be related to John Jacob Astor's ill-fated fur-trading vessel *TONQUIN*, lost there in June of 1811.

The Foundation's future plans include the exploration and interpretation of a number of other submerged and dry-land sites within Clayoquot Sound and adjoining territories.

Ultimately, the Foundation's goal is to establish a Maritime Heritage Discovery Centre in the Tofino area that will interpret and display, in a dramatic and evocative manner, the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the region.

The history and culture of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, the archaeology of Echachist and other Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation sites and their eventual interpretation and display will be essential to the success of the proposed Discovery Centre.

Optimistically, the Tonquin Foundation will work hand in hand with the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation in fully developing these themes from modest beginnings.

The purpose of this preliminary investigation at Echachist was to assess the qualities of the exposed midden and house depressions reported by Mr. Martin and to determine the suitability of the site for further research and on-site archaeological training.

Personnel

Nupit-Tuch-Chilth (Joe Martin) – Liaison, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

Kevin Robinson MA – Archaeological Field Supervisor, Archipelago Research

Dana Gullison – Archaeological Assistant, Archipelago Research

Steve Bernard – Archaeological Assistant, Tonquin Foundation

David W. Griffiths – Archaeological Assistant, Tonquin Foundation

Field Operations & Observations

On August 28, the above-described team toured the perimeter and inland areas of Echachist Island.

A surprisingly large percentage of the island is covered by midden, the accumulated deposit of cultural materials such as shell, bone, the remains of cooking fires and structures.

There are visible terraces, with rows of rectangular house depressions.

The thickest midden and greatest concentration of houses are on the somewhat protected eastern shore of the island, above a beach.

Although the remains of these ancient houses are in some cases obscured by vegetation, much of the midden is covered only by grass.

Cultural materials such as the rich black soil mixed with shell, and whale bones are visible where natural erosion is occurring. The beach exhibits rows of boulders, moved to clear one area where Mr. Martin indicated whales were towed for processing.

Following this orientation, the team selected sites for test excavations at various locations within the more obvious concentrations of midden. A 1m long soil probe was used to determine whether the deposits extended to that depth. Throughout the area where house depressions are visible, the buried midden extends to 1m depth and beyond. In a general sense, the thick accumulation of shell and other cultural material indicates a long period of occupation, perhaps several hundred or even thousands of years.

Field Operations & Observations (Cont'd)

Test excavations were conducted at six locations, using a shovel to excavate a pit approximately 40cm in diameter and typically to a depth of about 1m.

The locations of the test excavations were noted using a hand-held GPS unit and also with reference to local topography.

The excavated material was screened through ¼ inch mesh.

The qualities of the soil were noted, particularly where layering or stratigraphy was apparent.

Varying concentrations of shells, bones and fire-cracked rock were observed in abundance.

Faunal remains such as shellfish, fish, bird and mammal shells and bones were noted and identified wherever possible as to species.

Samples were collected for further analysis.

Following the excavation of each test, the hole was filled with the excavated material and re-covered with turf.

A brief summary of the individual tests is provided below.

See the attached aerial plot for locations.

ECH ST1 - 49° 07.594N - 125° 56.274W (Wpt 1)

Located on a grassy terrace behind a small house above the beach. Immediately below a thin sod layer, black soil with crushed shell appears. Most of the shell is Blue and California Mussel like that on the beach, but there are some Butter, Horse and Littleneck Clam shells. The concentrated shell has “buffered” the naturally acidic soil, and this enhances the preservation of bone, including lumps of fish scales and tiny herring vertebra. At a depth of 50 cm, we encounter some whale bone, and from 50-80 cm DBS (depth below surface) the soil is very black and greasy without much shell. We test in the bottom of the 80cm deep hole with the soil probe and find that the cultural deposit extends to at least 130 cm DBS. There has been no indication of post-contact material in this test; i.e., there has been an absence of glass, ceramic etc.

Sample 01 – 2 Pharyngeal pads of fish species White Croaker (*Genyonemus lineatus*) See *Note

Sample 02 – Conglomerate (herring bones, etc.)

Sample 03 – Fish skin/scales

Sample 04 – Whalebone

Sample 05 – Fish vertebrae

* Note: These samples were identified as the pharyngeal pads of the species White Croaker (*Genyonemus lineatus*), of the genus Sciaenidae by Gavin F. Hanke, PhD, Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria.

This species is extremely rare in British Columbia waters, with only one specimen having been reported at Mayne Bay, Barkley Sound. It is a small (up to 13 inches), schooling fish that is more

common in the warmer waters off Baja California and California where it is sometimes used as bait but is generally considered unimportant in terms of commercial or recreational utilization. That two pharyngeal pads from two separate specimens were located in one shovel test suggests that this species may have been quite numerous at the time of their deposit and further that the climate and/or sea temperature at that time may have been substantially warmer. Kevin Robinson notes that in the course of a midden survey at the north end of Vancouver Island earlier in the 2004 season he located samples identical to those located during this survey at Echachist.

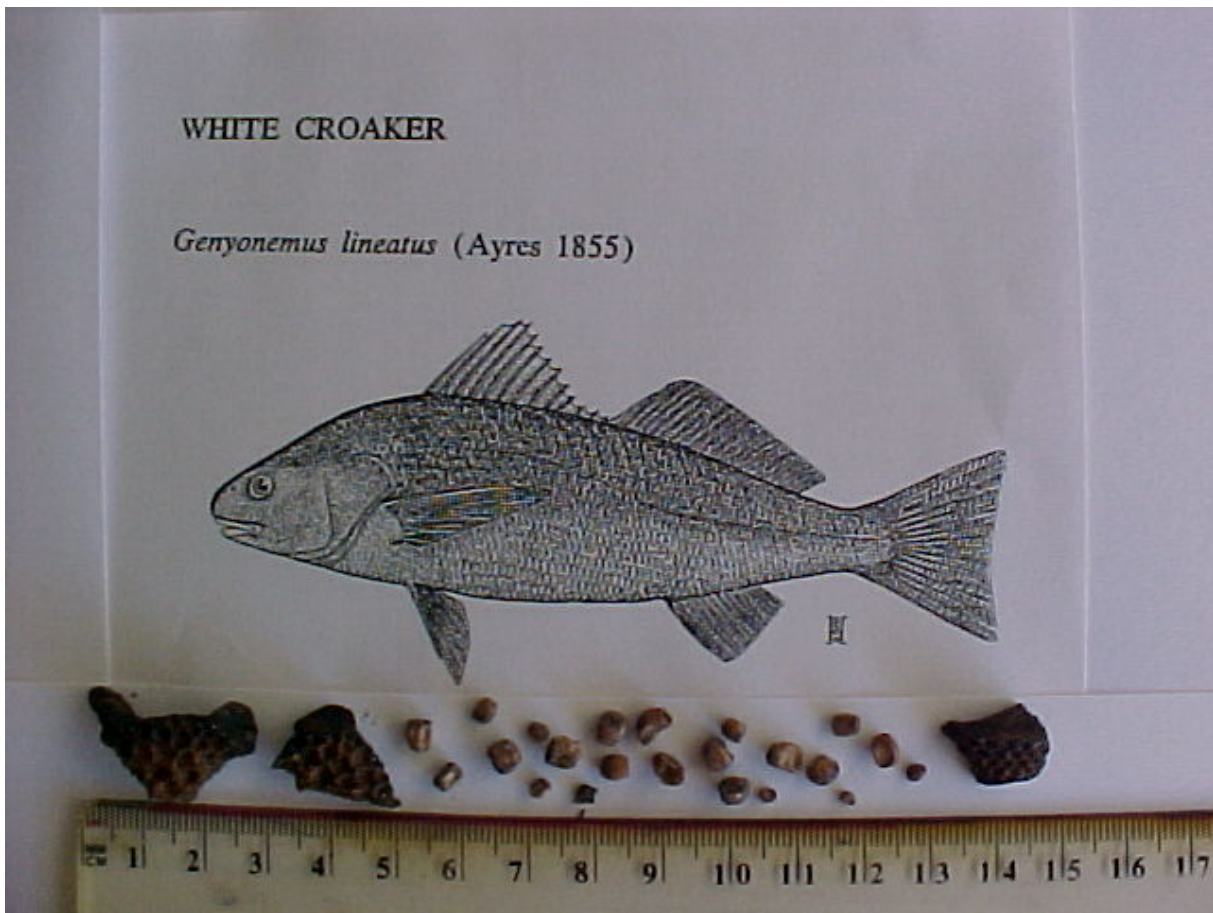


Fig. 1: Image of White Croaker with pharyngeal pads from ECH ST1 Sample 01

ECH ST2 - 49° 07 588N - 125° 56.227W (Wpt 2)

Located about 3m above the high tide line on a flat terrace. From below the thin sod to 40 DBS the soil is black with about 10% shell. A metal object, possibly a bent nail, was located just below the surface layer. There are salmon vertebra, sea mammal (seal?) bones and bird bones present. A small patch of clean beach sand was observed at about 25 DBS. From 40-50 DBS the shell fraction increased to about 40%. Whalebone chunks appeared at about 75 cm DBS. The test was discontinued without reaching the end of cultural material at a depth of 90 cm.

Sample 01 – Whalebone

Sample 02 – Bird bones

Sample 03 – Metal object (possibly nail)

Sample 04 – Mammal bone

Sample 05 – Whalebone

ECH ST3 - 49° 07.569N - 125° 56.209W (Wpt 3)

Located about 60m back from beach, high on the back ridge of the apparent midden. The amount of shell in this area varied with depth, typically about 40%. Several concentrations of well-preserved herring bone and scales were observed. Stratigraphy was indistinct, possibly indicating some disturbance such as digging associated with house construction. One layer of black soil with greatly reduced shell fraction was noted at 20-25 DBS. Fire-cracked rock appeared in greater abundance at a depth of 40-50 cm. At a depth of 70 cm a faceted blue glass bead was collected. The shovel test was terminated at 80 DBS, although use of the soil probe indicated that the midden extends to at least 1.5 m thickness and judging from the terrain, perhaps several metres thick at this location.

ECH ST3 (Cont'd.)

Sample 01 – Mammal bone

Sample 02 – Whalebone/ fish vertebrae

Sample 03 – Blue glass faceted bead (Analysed by Ms. Melissa Darby of Lower Columbia Research & Archaeology. See “Bead Analysis”).

ECH EXP MID - 49° 07.562N - 125° 56.190W (Wpt 4)

Located on a slope just above the beach line where the eroded base of the midden is exposed. No shovel test was undertaken at this site.

Exposed samples were collected for analysis and identification.

Sample 01 – Glass bottle neck and rim

Sample 02 – Possible wrought iron drift pin.

ECH ST4 - 49° 07.605N - 125° 56.234W (Wpt 5)

This test was conducted within the remains of a 20thC structure, assuming that it may have been built on an older house site. The midden material was apparent just below the surface where a large, round rock (possibly a hammer-stone) was located.

The surface strata consisted of black soil with 10% crushed shell, increasing to 30% in a zone 25-35 cm DBS. At about 60 cm DBS, fire-cracked rock is abundant. Probing the bottom of the 80 cm shovel test indicated deposits extend at least to a depth of 1m.

Sample 01 – Mammal bone

Sample 02 – Whalebone

Sample 03 – Bird bones

Sample 04 – Whalebone

Sample 05 – Bird bones

ECH ST5 - 49° 07.707N - 125° 56.226W (Wpt 6)

Is located about 15m SW of Joe Martin’s outdoor workshop area. The results of this test are inconclusive for cultural material. The typical soil is grey sand with 10-20% crushed and whole mussel shell, which is similar to the beach material. One small fragment of whalebone and one piece of charcoal were observed. While these materials may be cultural, this location is removed from the main area of habitation and associated activities. The test was concluded at 1m DBS, where a slight colour shift, from grey to brown, was noted.

No samples taken.

ECH ST 6 - 49° 07.720N - 125° 56.252W (Wpt 7)

Is located about 60m NW of Joe Martin’s house, on an elevated grassy terrace. Some recent use, perhaps by campers, indicated by a small table or bench built at the location. Below a 10cm thick sod layer, the cultural material extends without significant layering to a depth of at least 80cm.

The deposit is highly concentrated shell (90%) including mussel and giant barnacle, with various additional cultural indicators including salmon vertebra, charcoal and whalebone. The test was terminated at 80cm DBS when large whalebones were encountered. Although this discovery was intriguing, we were not prepared at this time to fully expose these bones.

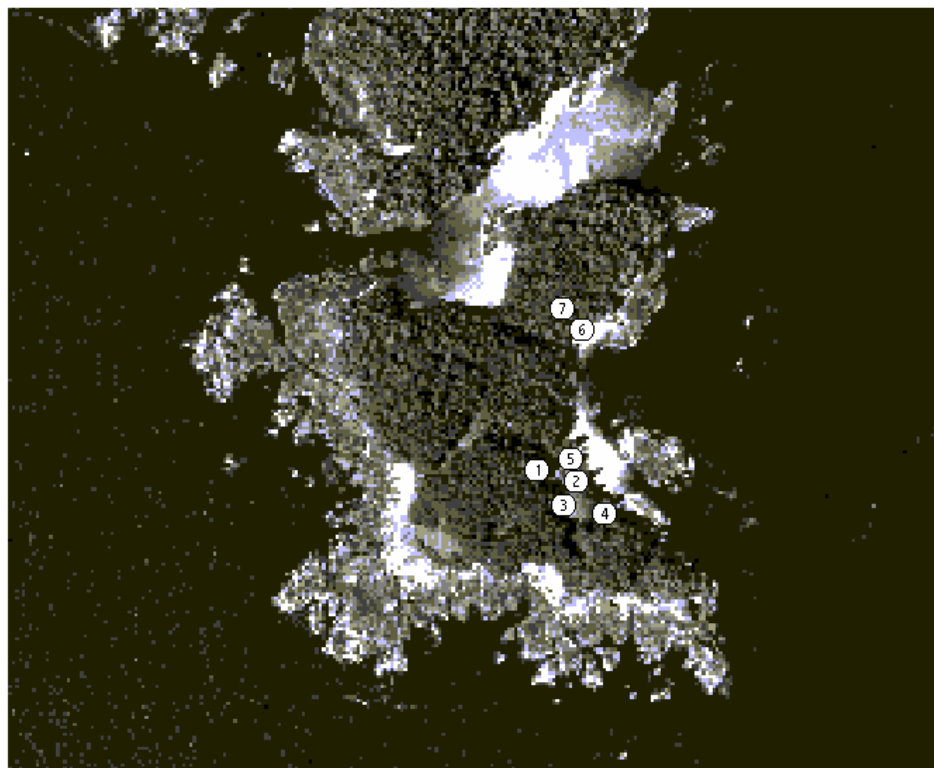
Sample 01 – Whalebone (from surface layer)

Sample 02 – Giant Barnacle Shells

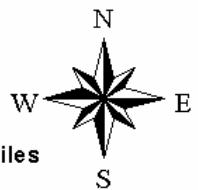
Sample 03 – Bird bone

Sample 04 – Whalebone (from 70cm level)

Echachis 2004,08,28



0.3 0 0.3 0.6 Miles



NB – Aerial plot numerals correspond to Waypoint numbers.

Abbreviations: ECH = Echachist, ST = Shovel Test, EXP = Exposed, MID = Midden, Wpt = GPS Waypoint, FCR = Fire-cracked rock, DBS = Depth Below Surface.

Bead Analysis

The blue, faceted, glass bead (ECH ST3 03) located in Shovel Test 3 was sent to Ms. Melissa Darby MA RPA of Lower Columbia Research & Archaeology, 3327 NE Simpson Street, Portland, Oregon 97211, USA for analysis.

Ms. Darby is an archaeologist and expert in fur trade-era trade goods (specifically trade beads) and a member of the Tonquin Foundation who has undertaken extensive analysis of the

collection of FOVA 2002-type beads found encrusting the late-18th century anchor retrieved from Templar Channel in July of 2003. Her findings were as follows:

ECH ST3 03: On September 3, 2004 I received a bead from a shovel test undertaken on Echachis Island (Echachis No.2/Indian Reservation#06874).

The bead was cut from a glass tube that was moulded with six sides. Two rows of ground facets finished the bead. The bead is in poor condition with a crack and partial loss of some matrix and

ECH ST3 03 (Cont'd)

it appears to have been tumbled or worn so the facets are rounded to an extreme extent. When it was new, the facets sparkled. The surface of this bead is abraded so it has lost its lustre.

The bead is a double-layer with a light blue interior glass overlain with a translucent blue glass. It was formed from a glass tube with six moulded sides. The bead is variety IIIf-d6/7tp/tis/1-3 known as FOVA 1035. The least diameter by the length measures 6.8 x 5.8.

Methods

I used the comparative bead type collections from several historic sites in the Northwest, including Fort Vancouver and its associated tower, Kanaka Village, as the basis for this research. The Fort Vancouver research library contains reference material relating to the recovery of beads and other artifacts from various archaeological sites in the Northwest and beyond.

The bead was analyzed for size, colour, shape, diaphaneity and manufacturing type. This bead was colour valued using the Munsell Book of Colour Vol. 2 located at the archaeology laboratory at Fort Vancouver National Reserve, Vancouver, Washington. It was classified within the bead classification system is designed by Ross (1990) and is based on the classification system developed for archaeologists by Kenneth and Martha Kidd (1970), as modified and expanded by Karlis Karklins (1982, 1985).

Findings

The bead corresponds to bead variety IIIf-d6/7tp/tis/1-3, also known as Fort Vancouver variety FOVA 1035. The least diameter of this bead is 6.8 and the length is 5.8. It is a 'short' bead because the diameter is greater than the length. It is a dark blue 7.5PB 3/10 alternating with a layer of light blue 7.5 PB6-7/6 (Munsell Color).

This bead variety and other faceted beads have been found in many sites in the Pacific Northwest and Africa. According to Ross, these have been called "Russian" faceted beads due to their late 18th and early 19th century introduction into the Alaska region by Russian fur traders. Over 102 beads of this variety have been found at Fort Vancouver alone (Ross 1990:39)

According to Arthur Woodward (1965:9)

"Other beads such as the large ultra marine blue faceted beads found along the coast of southern Alaska and British Columbia and as far south as Washington and Oregon, became "Russian beads" in spite of the fact that original packages of these beads, wrapped in gray coarse paper, were found unopened in the warehouse of the Russian American Fur Company at Sitka in 1867, marked "Brussels". In the latter case it was probably a repackaging job done by an export company in the Belgian city".

In the Pacific Northwest, the FOVA 1035 bead may have been manufactured in Bohemia, possibly Venice and is commonly associated with post-1820 contexts (Ross 1990:38).

Ms. Darby also conducted analysis of 2 beads found by Mr. Joe Martin on the beach in front of his house on Echachist Island (designated ECHACHIS 1 & ECH FOVA 2001).

ECHACHIS 1 is a simple monochrome bead found on the beach at Echachis Island by Mr. Joe Martin and was manufactured using the wire-wound process. These beads were made one at a time by wrapping part of a molten rod of glass around a wire or mandrel. As the molten rod was pulled away, the remaining molten glass on the mandrel was heated and spun until it assumed the desired shape.

This large, wound bead has no known variety corresponding to it, hence its' designation of ECHACHIS 1.

Its' Munsell colour designation is 7.5B 6/10-7/10. It is a bright blue opaque bead with some banding marks characteristic of the winding process. It has been washed in the surf on the beach and is worn, with rounded edges. Length = 11.1mm. Diameter = 12.2mm.

It is likely an early (pre-1830) bead, imported from China which was known to produce brightly coloured blue beads for the fur trade.

ECH FOVA 2001: On July 16, 2004 I received a bead from the beach at Echachis that was found there by a friend of Joe Martin. This is the site of the village the *TONQUIN* was trading with.

The bead is an undecorated shaped cylindrical wire-wound bead. It is symmetrical in profile and exhibits no major flaws. A small conchoidal is present on one end. The bead is long, blue in colour, opaque and known as FOVA variety 2001. It was shaped or marvered purposefully into a rounded cylinder possibly on a graphite paddle during manufacture.

Methods

I used the comparative bead type collections from several historic sites in the Northwest, including Fort Vancouver and its associated tower, Kanaka Village, as the basis for this research. The Fort Vancouver research library contains reference material relating to the recovery of beads and other artifacts from various archaeological sites in the Northwest and beyond.

The bead was analyzed for size, colour, shape, diaphaneity and manufacturing type. This bead was colour valued using the Munsell Book of Colour Vol. 2 located at the archaeology laboratory at Fort Vancouver National Reserve, Vancouver, Washington. It was classified within the bead classification system is designed by Ross (1990) and is based on the classification system developed for archaeologists by Kenneth and Martha Kidd (1970), as modified and expanded by Karlis Karklins (1982, 1985).

Findings

The bead corresponds to bead variety Wia-scopl-1, also known as Fort Vancouver variety FOVA 2001. The least diameter of this bead is 5.94 and the length is 10.31. It is a dark blue (Munsell Color 10B 4/8). It is very similar to FOVA 2065 and FOVA 2014, which may represent different versions of the same variety. The FOVA 2065 beads are smaller and translucent, and a lighter blue (7.5B 5/6) than the FOVA 2001 variety. FOVA 2014 are closer in color to the FOVA 2001 (7.5B 4/4) and just smaller than the FOVA 2014 size range which is 6.6-6.9 in least diameter and 10.9-11.6 in length.

Bead variety FOVA 2001 are simple monochrome beads manufactured using the wire-wound process. These beads were made one at a time by wrapping part of a molten rod of glass around a wire or mandrel, and as the molten rod was pulled away, the remaining molten glass on the wire was heated and spun until it assumed the desired shape. The final step in the manufacturing process was to marver the bead on a graphite paddle or plate in order to shape it into a well-formed cylinder.

FOVA 2001, 2065 and 2014 beads have been found in early contexts. There are two FOVA 2001 beads that were found in a stockade trench constructed in 1834 at Fort Vancouver. Recent excavations at Station Camp (45PC106) in Macgowan, Washington came up with two FOVA 2001 beads. This was a Chinookan village that was at the mouth of the Columbia River, across the river from Astoria, Oregon. It was an established village during the time of Lewis and Clark (1805-6) and into the settlement period. Analysis of the context of these beads is in progress. The Station Camp bead size range is 4.93-5.47 in least diameter and 8.32-8.50 in length.

Conclusions

FOVA 2001 beads are not a common bead found in archaeological sites in the Northwest. The hand-finished shape may have made this bead expensive, and a prestige trade item. They have

been found in pre-1835 contexts at Fort Vancouver, however the chronological range of this variety is unknown. This was probably a necklace bead.

General Conclusions & Recommendations

In general, the results of these preliminary investigations are promising. There is obviously a very large archaeological site with numerous house features. Although we only sampled a very small portion of the site, most of the test excavations revealed very deep stratified midden with an abundance of cultural material. The significance of the midden is that through further excavations and comparative analysis, we may learn a great deal about the use of Echachist over a long period of time. We may learn by study of the shell, for example, whether the site was occupied seasonally or year round, and whether there were periods when the population fluctuated, or whether the site was used regularly or abandoned for long periods of time. It may be interesting for the Tla-o-qui-aht people to learn more of their traditional ways by examining various types of materials in the different house locations. It may be possible to learn, for example, exactly how whales were butchered, by examining tool marks on bones. It may be possible to determine a class structure by comparing the foods used by people in the various houses, or to learn where certain activities such as stone tool manufacture, or fish processing occurred. The age of certain features may be determined through sampling and analysis of carbon samples. Archaeological research of this detail is a significant undertaking which requires planning and commitment. At this point we are aware that the resources at Echachist are worth consideration.

It is recommended that the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and the Tonquin Foundation join forces in this archaeological research. This is a great opportunity for Tla-o-qui-aht people to participate in excavations, and the study of materials which will shed new light on the past.

The first step in this joint venture is discussion and planning, to ensure that the program of research meets the objectives of all participants.

The second step is the training of interested personnel in the methods of professional archaeology. It would be a practical start to consider a 10 day RISC Archaeological Inventory course which leads to the provincially recognized certificate. Tonquin Foundation Director Kevin Robinson is qualified to deliver this course and we would be very pleased to discuss scheduling and possible funding sources. Other courses more focused on underwater archaeology, conservation, archive/ethnographic research and museum sciences are also possibilities.

The third step in archaeological research at Echachist and other Tla-o-qui-aht locations would be to identify specific research goals and to design investigative strategies that fit the needs of the program.

One idea which has emerged is to provide archaeological experiences as a form of cultural recreation. Archaeological excavations throughout the world are operated in this way; the costs of running the research program are partly or completely covered by charging recreational participants a fee for working alongside professionals.

Should this avenue be pursued the participant's overall experience would be immeasurably enhanced and enriched by the participation, guidance and cultural experience of members of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

As previously stated, the ultimate goal should be the establishment of a Heritage Discovery Centre at which the rich cultural legacy of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation would be preserved and interpreted for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to examine this interesting and important site, to explore its potential and to ponder the many exciting possibilities.

We look forward to further discussions.

Please contact David W. Griffiths, Executive Director, The Tonquin Foundation, P.O. Box 213, Tofino, BC, V0R 2Z0. Telephone: 250 382 6613. Fax: 250 479 0501. Email: Tonquin@aol.com.

Ethnographic/Historical Notes

Echachist Island (*ich' aachist* - "land elevated above the ocean's surface") has been inhabited by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations people for many hundreds, probably many thousands, of years and continues to be to the present day.

It is known that Echachist was a major seasonal centre for fishing, marine mammal hunting and whaling. Beyond that, Echachist' importance to the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation extends to the cultural, spiritual, commercial and strategic.

The smooth, pea-gravel beaches on the island's eastern shore provided ideal conditions for the beaching and butchering of whales. Its' proximity to the open ocean, as well as offshore rocks, reefs and islands afforded its' inhabitants relative ease of access to a wide variety of food resources. Similarly, its' location at the entrance to Clayoquot Sound provided its' residents with obvious strategic advantages.

Prior to contact with Europeans, and for a considerable time afterwards, Echachist was a thriving centre of Tla-o-qui-aht culture.

It is known that during the late 18th and early 19th centuries Echachist was the major summer seat of Chief Wickaninnish and other powerful Tla-o-qui-aht chieftains.

One of the first direct references to Echachist in the literature appears in Captain John Meares' account of his June 1788 visit there, aboard the British Ship *Felice Adventurer*.

Chief Wickaninnish himself personally piloted Meares' ship from Friendly Cove to Clayoquot Sound and the anchorage off Echachist Island.

The morning after their arrival, Meares and some companions entered the village, which they noted was "*three times the size of Maquinna's at Friendly Cove*".

They were conducted to the home of Chief Wickaninnish.

"On entering the house we were absolutely astonished at the vast area it enclosed. It contained a large square, boarded up close on all sides to the height of twenty feet, with planks of an uncommon breadth and length. Three enormous trees, carved and painted, formed the rafters, which were supported at the ends and in the middle by gigantic images, carved out of huge blocks of timber. The same kind of broad planks covered the whole to keep out the rain; but they were so placed as to be removed at pleasure, either to receive the air and light, or to let out the smoke.

....The door, by which we entered this extraordinary fabric, was the mouth of one of these huge images, which, large as it may be supposed, was not disproportioned to the other features of this monstrous visage".

From inside the house, Meares observed that the roof supports were larger than a ship's mast and that a bench, two feet from the ground, lined the walls of the entire building as the principal item of furniture. Upon this bench, some 800 occupants of the house, whom Meares' took to be members of Wickaninnish's family, sat according to rank.

"....At the end of the great room sat Wickaninnish surrounded by natives of rank, on a small raised platform, round which were placed several large chests, over which hung bladders of oil, large slices of whale flesh and proportional gobbets of blubber".

Invited to dine, the Englishmen partook of a meal consisting of sliced, boiled whale meat and fish soup eaten with a mussel shell spoon. Wooden vessels containing the soup were placed around several fires kindled in the middle of the room and cooking was accomplished by stone boiling. Large sealskins filled with oil hung here and there so the guests could help themselves. In the latter part of June, due to gale-force winds, Meares decided to move his ship deeper into Clayoquot Sound. When Wickaninnish saw the ship under sail, he came aboard and safely guided it into the inner harbour to an anchorage Meares called Port Cox.

Around the same time, most of the inhabitants of Echachist moved from their location at the entrance of the Sound and took up residence at Opitsat.

After a trading voyage to the south, Meares returned to Clayoquot Sound in mid-August to find that Chief Wickaninnish and his people had relocated once more, this time to Clayoquot.

“Clioquatt...consisted, like the other towns, of such houses as we have already described, but more commodiously constructed....and the dwelling of the chief much more capacious than that which he occupied in the village near the sea (Echachist), when we first visited his territories”.



Fig.3 - Meares' 1788 sketch showing village sites at Opitsat, Clayoquot and Echachist. Echachist and Wickaninnish Islands shown as one landmass

Three years after Meares' first visit to Clayoquot Sound, on May 7th 1791, the Spanish Navy vessels *Santa Saturnina* and *San Carlos* arrived in Clayoquot Sound from Nootka.

58 Tla-o-qui-aht canoes of various sizes paddled out from the village at the entrance to the Sound.

On May 10th Commander Francisco Eliza, pilot Juan Pantoja y Arriaga and a small party went ashore to pay their respects to Chief Wickaninnish. The chief cordially received them at his home, which Pantoja described.

“The gallery is made of very wide and long timbers. It contains three aisles; the one in the centre serves for transit and in the two on the sides the living quarters of both sexes can be seen, but separate, in one the men, and in the other the women and their children”.

While his officers conducted a survey of the Sound Eliza remained with Wickaninnish.

“In a dance of young men which Guicaninich (Wickaninnish) gave me in his house more than 600 took part”, wrote Eliza. He said that the Tla-o-qui-aht had 5 large settlements in the Sound, each with about 1500 inhabitants and that Guicaninich (Wickaninnish) was the largest with 2500.

One may conclude that the settlement of “Guicaninich” is infact Echachist village, as both Echachist and Wickaninnish Islands are shown as one land mass on the Spanish chart prepared by the Eliza expedition (see Fig. 4).



Fig. 4 – Detail of a 1791 Spanish chart showing settlements at Echachist (Guicaninich) and Clayoquot. Note that Wickaninnish and Echachist Islands are shown as one land mass.

During the heyday of the sea otter fur trade, from approximately 1790 to 1810, ships of many nations visited and traded in Clayoquot Sound. Relations between the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and the traders ranged from cordial to conflict.

The most famous of the latter is without a doubt the story of the American ship *Tonquin*, which came to anchor off Echachist Island on a June evening in 1811.

It was from Echachist that Tla-o-qui-aht war chief Nuukmiis would lead his forces against that ill-fated ship and it was to its' shores that survivors, captives, wounded, dead and dying would return.

The *Tonquin* incident had a number of profound effects on the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, including the great loss of life amongst its' able-bodied male population and the deliberate avoidance of Tla-o-qui-aht territory by outsiders for a number of decades.

But 50 years on from the *Tonquin* affair it would seem from the literature that the Tla-o-qui-aht and their settlements, including Echachist, had rebounded.

In June of 1861, while undertaking a hydrographical survey for the British Admiralty, Captain George Henry Richards aboard *HMS Hecate* visited Echachist.

His subsequent entry on page 204 of the “The Vancouver Island Pilot -1864”, under the heading of Templar Channel described the following: “*Wakennenish Island, on the west side of the Channel, a mile from Lennard Island, is about 200 feet high, one and a half miles long and half a mile wide; at its south point is a large Indian Village, E-cha-chets, generally occupied by the natives during the summer season when fishing*”.

Also aboard the *HMS Hecate* during that visit to Echachist was Midshipman John Gowland whose journal entry for June 27th 1861 states that, “...*when HMS Hecate visited Echachets Village, Clayoquot Sound the Indians feared the vessel's visit was intended to introduce a disease amongst them, as had been done by the Americans at Cape Flattery, killing hundreds of natives. The chief however became convinced that British intentions were peaceable*”.

Three years later, in the fall of 1864, the Royal Navy was back. This time, however, their intentions were far from peaceful. Two of Her Majesty's warships, *Sutlej* and *Devastation*, were on a punitive mission against the Ahousat First Nation, some members of which had allegedly attacked the trading schooner *Kingfisher* and killed its' crew of three at Matilda Creek.

While enroute to Ahousat *HM Paddle-Sloop-of-War Devastation* stopped at Echachist.

Her commander, Captain John W. Pike, noted, “*The Chief of the Echachets of Clayoquot Sound had even offered to place 120 Warriors with canoes at the disposal of the British, should they be required*”.

A decade later the population of Echachist must still have been quite substantial as the Roman Catholic priest A.J. Brabant reported that during a visit to “*Echa-chisht (Village Island)*”, on April 21st 1874, he baptized ninety-three children in one morning.

Brabant described his arrival and reception at Echachist, “...*at 9am Sitakenin and half a dozen of his Indians came out to meet us at sea. We went onboard of his canoe and he took us to the chief's house, where two new Indian mats were laid on the floor, forming a path to the end of the lodge, where boxes and trunks covered with fine mats were prepared to be used by us as seats and footstools*”.



Fig. 5: Humpback Whale (*iibtoop*) on the beach at Echachis in 1909 (Moser)

Note the houses in background and that standing timber has been cleared.

Seasonal habitation of Echachist continued well into the 20th century and whaling operations were undertaken there as late as 1909.

Two photographs in the collection of the Royal British Columbia Museum, credited to Reverend Charles Moser OSB of the Christie Residential School at Kakawis, show two views of a Humpback Whale (*iibtoop*) on the beach at Echachist about to be butchered.

Notations on the back of the original photographs read, "Ya-sshin Jack (*Alice Jack's grandfather*) got this whale at Echachis in 1909" and "The last whale was taken in Clayoquot in 1909".

In the opinion of this writer there is a wealth of hitherto untapped historical, ethnological and ethnographic material and artifacts relating to Echachist and other Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation sites held at institutions and archives as close as Victoria and Ottawa and as far afield as the United States, Great Britain and Spain. It is strongly recommended that a concerted effort be made to locate, catalogue, copy, collect and repatriate these materials and that they be combined with Tla-o-qui-aht oral traditions and knowledge to form a permanent record of the people, the places and the events that are the history, heritage and culture of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. It is further recommended that some of these materials and artifacts be incorporated into a permanent exhibit and archive at the proposed Discovery Centre.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to undertake this preliminary research.
We look forward to further discussions.

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