

SHAWKEMO CHAPTER

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In 1939, Edward Brooks and Ripley Bullen of the nascent Massachusetts Archaeological Society, organized Society excavations at Squam Pond, Herrecater Swamp, and the Hughes Site, Nantucket, and published reports of their work in the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society (Brooks 1939, 1941; Bullen and Brooks 1947, 1948, 1949). In addition to controlled excavations, documented surface collecting began at the island on a large scale. Dirt roads, beaches and other sites of erosion or construction were monitored for surface artifacts, which were recorded with provenience. Alfred F. and Alice A. Shurrocks gave the Nantucket Historical Association (NHA) over 1000 provenienced artifacts in 1940 (Shurrocks 1940), and Mrs. Shurrocks continued collecting and recording find sites until her death; her provenienced collection was given in 1979 to the Nantucket Historical Association. Beginning in 1943, another husband and wife team, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Olney Dunham, also contributed most of their extensive surface collection, including site records, to the NHA. The Irving Sandsbury and Marcus L. Ramsdell collections are also at the NHA.

The Shawkemo Chapter of the M.A.S. was formed at Nantucket in 1957 (Roy 1958), and undertook excavations during its eight years of operation. Publications by Stanley Roy (1956), Bernard T. Stockley (1964a, 1964b, 1965, 1968) and Joseph H. Waters (1965) record these controlled excavations.

Since 1972, the Nantucket Historical Association has assumed responsibility for curation, research, management and preservation of Nantucket's archaeological sites and finds (Little 1978, 1979, 1980; Little, Young and Sussek 1981).

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Robert Minshall, right, presenting the catalogue of his provenienced Nantucket artifact collection to Edouard A. Stackpole, left, director of the Peter Foulger Museum, Nantucket, in July 1980. Bob also donated his artifact collection to the Nantucket Historical Association shortly before his death in 1980.

In the 1930's, Bob Minshall had been introduced to archaeology at Nantucket by Edward Brooks and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred F. Shurrocks, who emphasized the importance of recording find-sites (Shurrocks 1940). Edward Brooks was a founding member and chairman of the membership committee of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, and conducted the first M.A.S. sponsored excavation at Herracator Swamp, Nantucket, in 1939-40 (Brooks 1939, 1941; Bullen and Brooks 1949). (Elizabeth A. Little photograph).

