CARLYLE SHREEVE SMITH, 1915–1993

Carlyle Smith demonstrating his marksmanship with a percussion pistol at Talking Crow, 1951. (Photo by Roger Grange.)

Carlyle Shreeve Smith died 13 December 1993 in Kansas City, Missouri. Smith was among the founding members of the Society for Historical Archaeology and the 1989 recipient of its most prestigious award, the J. C. Harrington Medal for Contributions in Historical Archaeology. He was also widely known for his archaeological field work in New York, the Plains, and the Pacific.

Smith carried out 23 major research grants from many funding sources. He served as Assistant Editor for the Plains for American Antiquity (1949–1955) and edited the University of Kansas Publications in Anthropology (1969–1973); Smith also was an Advisory Editor for the North American Archaeologist from 1978 until his death. He served on the National Research Council (1961–1964) and the Kansas Historical Sites Board of Review (1970–1983).

Carlyle ("Carl") Smith was born in Great Neck, Long Island, New York, on 8 March 1915 to Harold William Smith and Lulu Arrandale, née Allen. His early education was oriented towards foreign languages, and he ultimately knew Latin, French, German, Spanish, and Norwegian. He earned his A.B.

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from Columbia College in 1938 and was awarded the Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1949. Carl’s interest in archaeology began as a high school student when he carried out archaeological work on Long Island that would later be incorporated into his doctoral research. His archaeological work in New York began in 1932 and continued intermittently to 1947.

Carlyle began his contacts with Clark Wissler and other leading anthropologists at the American Museum of Natural History while still in high school. Later, he learned ethnology from the likes of Gene Weltfish and Alexander Lesser. Others who greatly influenced Carl in college included William Duncan Strong, Ralph Linton, and geologist Alfred Lobeck.

Strong introduced Carl to field work in the Plains through excavations in North Dakota and extensive travels in 1938. His interest in the Plains continued, and he became a WPA unit supervisor at the Lovitt site in Nebraska in 1939. He also assisted in the excavation of Ash Hollow Cave. Carlyle, George Metcalf, and Ralph Solecki visited many other sites that year, including Talking Crow—the site that would later become the scene of some of his major work in the Plains.

The summer of 1940 was spent assisting Mary Butler of Vassar College with her work in the Hudson Valley. Upon completion of his assignment for Butler, he went to Louisiana for nine months in 1940-1941. There he learned pottery type and seriation concepts as a WPA laboratory supervisor for George Quimby.

Carlyle married Judith Pogany in 1942. During the early part of World War II, Carl worked as an inspector of engine parts in the Ranger Aircraft Engines factory. He was then inducted into the U.S. Army Air Force in 1943, serving in Greensboro, North Carolina, as a corporal and technical instructor in air photo interpretation and map reading.

In spite of his wartime military duties, Carlyle managed to publish three papers on Long Island archaeology during this period. Discharged in 1946, he returned to Columbia to work on his doctorate. Carl’s dissertation, *The Archaeology of Coastal New York*, was published by the American Museum of Natural History in 1950. His research became the foundation for prehistory in that part of New York, and it is still cited today.

Smith began his most intensive work in the Plains in 1947, when appointed assistant professor of anthropology and assistant curator, Museum of Natural History, at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. He was to spend the remainder of his career at KU, during which time he taught countless students and prepared numerous archaeological and ethnological museum exhibits. Carlyle was promoted to associate professor and associate curator in 1954 and then to professor and curator in 1960. In 1968 he became professor and research associate in the new Museum of Anthropology and, finally, professor emeritus and curator emeritus upon retirement in 1981.

His early KU archaeological expeditions were unusual for the time, running counter to the prevailing attitudes about crew composition. Not only did Carlyle take his wife and children to the field, but he also routinely included women in his field crews. Indeed, years later he was fond of pointing out that women in those days were not even supposed to be seen in university vehicles!

Carlyle excavated numerous sites in Kansas between 1947 and 1980 and worked intensively in the River Basin Salvage programs in South Dakota and Kansas from 1950 to 1978. His work at Talking Crow and related sites in South Dakota embodies Carl’s most significant contribution to Plains prehistory. That multi-component site demonstrated continuity between the Central Plains Tradition and later periods in Arikara archaeology. Moreover, Smith’s work at the site demonstrated the unity that can be achieved between archaeologists and native peoples. Carlyle’s training and skills in ethnology helped foster good local relations while excavating at the site, and he was given the honorary name *Kangi-ia-wakan*, Holy Crow Voice or “Talking Crow,” by the Dakota in a ceremony at Fort Thompson.

During this time almost every excavation in the Missouri Valley produced a new cultural complex. Accordingly, Carl defined numerous new ceramic types, and his seriations, based on stratigraphy at Talking Crow, were important in the development of regional culture history. Articles, papers at meet-
ings, and discussions at the "accidental" Plains conferences—held in the Silver Spur Bar in Pierre, South Dakota—kept his colleagues apprised of the data. He further extended exposure of his work to international congress audiences in Costa Rica, Austria, Mexico, Spain, France, and the former Soviet Union. Carl's very extensive work at Talking Crow produced mountains of material, and the final publication appeared in 1977.

Smith was invited to join Thor Heyerdahl's Norwegian Archaeological Expedition to Easter Island and the East Pacific in 1955–1956, which opened a new mini-career in Pacific archaeology. He contributed extensively to the reports on this field work and, in 1963–1964, Carlyle carried out an additional excavation at the Pekia site on Hiva Oa, Marquesas Islands, French Polynesia.

Carlyle's expertise in that exotic area led to an invitation from Lindblad Travel to serve as shipboard lecturer and guide on a cruise to Easter Island in 1967. That was the start of yet another facet of Carl's career and led to a total of 19 cruises as lecturer and guide to the Pacific and Mediterranean for Lindblad Travel, the Norwegian American Line, Prudential Lines, and the Royal Viking Line.

At an early age in New York, Smith became interested in the history and development of firearms, and he pursued his firearms research both professionally and recreationally. Carlyle developed a superb personal collection of period firearms, all restored to operating condition. Consequently, his students in the field and in the course he taught on the subject at KU had the unique opportunity for firsthand experience with such important historic trade materials. Carl even had a small cannon in his collection and was skilled in firing concrete-filled orange juice cans at logs floating on the Missouri River! His research on firearms and their identification was Carlyle's primary contribution to historical archaeology, with at least 23 of his publications falling into that category. He was a unique resource archaeologist—generous with his time and effort in identifying gun parts sent to him; scholarly, thorough, and punctual in his responses to colleagues.

Not limited to collections research, Carlyle excavated some Historic-period sites and components in the river basin projects, as well as at the Riggs House in Lawrence, Kansas, which produced evidence of the 1863 Quantrill raid. He also excavated the Kansas Monument site, an important Historic-period Pawnee village, integrating prehistory and historical archaeology. Carlyle later extended his gunflint research to include both field and archival work in France (1960) and Italy (1964).

Carlyle's ill health slowed his active field work after 1966, but it was improved through bypass surgery in 1972. He retired from his regular faculty appointment on 31 December 1980, but continued as a lecturer and guide on cruise ships. His improved health after the surgery also enabled him to continue his writing and publication, as well as his great fondness for personal travel. Unfortunately, Carl was unable to recover from another such operation in December 1993.

Carlyle Smith's valuable contributions to archaeology earned him three significant honors. His pioneering research in Long Island archaeology was recognized when "The Carlyle S. Smith Archaeological Laboratories" at the Nassau County Museum of Natural History, Garvies Point, Glen Cove, Long Island, New York, was named for him in 1967. Carlyle's last contributions to South Dakota archaeology also were recognized with the Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, awarded him in 1979 by the University of South Dakota. Furthermore, as noted previously, in 1989 the Society for Historical Archaeology bestowed on him its highest honor, the J. C. Harrington Medal for Contributions in Historical Archaeology.

Carlyle Shreeve Smith is survived by his wife Judith, son Evan, daughter Pamela, and grandchildren Nathan Mannella Smith, David Allen Creed, and Andrew Jacob Creed. At this writing, a memorial fund is yet to be established in his name. Details will be announced in the SHA Newsletter when they are made final.

ROGER T. GRANGE, JR.

[I have drawn upon materials provided by Judy Smith and Alfred Johnson. —RTG]
MULLOY, WILLIAM, ARNE SKOOLSVOLD, AND CARLYLE S. SMITH


SMITH, CARLYLE S.

n.d. Fort Thompson, Shannon, and Campbell Foci. Anonymous and undated mimeograph, attributed to Carlyle Smith, on file, Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service, Lincoln, Nebraska.


1946a The Søndergaard Burial Site. Manuscript on file, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln.


1951d Archaeological Investigations at the Talking Crow Site (39BF3) in Fort Randall Reservoir, South Dakota. Submitted to the National Park Service, Lawrence. Submitted to National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, River Basin Surveys, Lincoln, Nebraska.


1958a Pottery Types from Talking Crow Site. Manuscript on file, Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service, Lincoln, Nebraska.


1961f Radio-Carbon Dates from Easter Island, Report 17. In Reports on the Norwegian Archaeological Expedition to Easter


1974b Archaeological Excavations at the Stricker Site (39LM1), Big Bend Reservoir, South Dakota, 1959. Prepared by University of Kansas, Lawrence. Submitted to National Park Service, Lincoln, Nebraska.


SMITH, CARLYLE S. (TRANSLATOR AND ANNOTATOR)

SMITH, CARLYLE S., AND MARTIN BEHRENS

SMITH, CARLYLE S., AND W. H. BIRKEY

SMITH, CARLYLE S., AND ROGER T. GRANGE, JR.

SMITH, CARLYLE S., AND THOR HEYERDAHL
SMITH, CARLYLE S., AND ALFRED E. JOHNSON  
1964 Archaeological Investigations at the Two Teeth Site (39BF204) and Sites in the Skunk Island Area, Big Bend Reservoir, South Dakota. Prepared by University of Kansas, Lawrence. Submitted to National Park Service, Lincoln, Nebraska.  

SMITH, CARLYLE S., AND G. HUBERT SMITH  

[Museum staff at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, are now seeking support to identify and catalogue Smith's papers on file. Additional notes by Smith are present in the files of the Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln. Furthermore, during his term as Assistant Editor for the Plains Area (1950–1955), Carlyle S. Smith also contributed 17 "Notes and News" columns in *American Antiquity*. —Memorials Editor]