Dr. Jeffrey P. Brain, 
Archaeologist

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INTRODUCTION

This biography was conceived as part of a class project. Graduate students were asked to choose an archaeologist of prominence and write a biography consisting of biographical information, critical expositions of the archaeologist's choice reports and a completely annotated bibliography of everything written by the author. I chose Dr. Jeffrey P. Brain, and although I did not quite know it at the time, I would come to respect and admire his writing and his research. Never pretentious in his writing, Dr. Brain's research has provided me with a model of excellence I can only hope, and strive, to achieve. I would like to thank Dr. Ian Brown, Dr. Creamer, Dr. Steponaitis, Dr. Galloway, and Dr. T.R. Kidder for all of their help, and willingness to talk with me about the Dr. Brain. Also without the facilities at The University of Alabama, and at the Gulf Coast Survey of the University of Alabama, this project would not have come to fruition. Any omissions or errors contained within are the responsibility of the biographer.

Jayur Mehta

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A Brief Biographical History Of Jeffrey P. Brain

By Jayur Mehta
Biography is the archaeology of a human life. It is a task that must be performed with care and skill, using as much information as one can find, to interpret what is underneath the surface. Not knowing Dr. Jeffrey P. Brain personally, I endeavored to excavate him from the pages of his research, and through the testimony given by his friends and colleagues. In the process, I learned about Dr. Brain as an archaeologist, as a practical joker, and as an inspiration to his friends in the field. This first chapter will provide exposition on Dr. Brain's life, his contributions to archaeology, and some anecdotes that uncover various aspects of his professional and personal life.

While Dr. Brain was born and bred in the brisk Northeast, he would for the majority of his career spend his time studying the Indians of North America and culture contact in the Southeastern United States. Jeffrey P. Brain was born in New York City on the fourth of January in 1940. His mother, whose father had passed away during her childhood, was a sweet and gentle woman from a family of modest means in Birmingham, Alabama. Jeffrey’s father was an Ohio native who commuted daily from upstate New York to the Big Apple, where he worked as a lawyer. Although it is possibly always too early for a loved one to pass away, Jeffrey, at 24 years old, in the Navy and already married, would also his father prematurely.

He was only twelve years old in 1952 when he left home to attend preparatory school in Massachusetts. It was while at school that he met John Belmont; I doubt they knew it at the time, but they would become lifelong colleagues in the field of archaeology. Jeffrey attended Harvard University in order to study archaeology, but after receiving his Bachelor of Arts, petty disputes, and infighting within the academic world left him jaded and wanting more out of life. As a result of this divisiveness, he decided to join the Navy (Brain, personal communication).
It is perhaps due to his experiences in the Navy, where he obtained the rank of full
Lieutenant, that his skills as a field director can be attributed (Brown and Creamer, personal
communication). Brain believed strongly in the chain of command, the responsibilities of
officers, and the necessity for hard work. As a model field director, Dr. Brain taught his students
to assume responsibility for their younger students and laborers; they were his officers and
carried out his decisions. Additionally, not only was it necessary for everyone to do the requisite
field-work during the day, but also laboratory work in the evening.

Upon returning from the Navy in 1965, Brain decided to continue his studies in
archaeology and commenced the program at Yale University. Under the tutelage of Irving
Rouse, and Philip Phillips, Brain learned the necessary intellectual skills for translating dry data
into readable, entertaining prose. It was at Lake George from 1958 to 1960, in Mississippi’s
Yazoo Valley, where Jeffrey learned the critical skills of excavation and interpretation, and
where he became master of his craft. While at Yale University, Brain developed the guidelines
for the Winterville project, which would became the subject of his doctoral dissertation. Taken
from a suggestion by Steven Williams, Jeffrey put together the project, and acquired the
necessary funding. Although the excavation and dissertation were completed in 1969, the revised
Winterville report would not see publication until twenty years later in 1989. The project was
part of a collaboration with the Lower Mississippi Survey of the Peabody Museum at Harvard
University; a partnership that would remain with Dr. Brain for a significant portion of his
academic career.

After receiving his final degree, Dr. Brain published articles in *American Antiquity*,
*Ethnology* and in *Archaeology News*. His first major composition after leaving Yale University
was published in 1971 for the Arkansas Archeological Survey and for the U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers as a companion to Saucier’s Lower Mississippi Valley Geology report and Kniffen’s European Settlement report, all three comprising the Corp’s Comprehensive Basin Study. Titled *The Lower Mississippi Valley in North American Prehistory*, Dr. Brain’s report emphasizes the importance of the Lower Mississippi Valley (LMV) for archaeology, and presents a synthesis of the region’s history from Paleo-Indian to historic contact times. In less than one hundred pages, Brain summarized the entirety of Indian history in the LMV and concluded that by the Neo-Indian era, cultural groups had become specifically valley oriented in their subsistence and life-oriented patterns.

It would almost seem that by divine intervention, or by the mysterious wheels of fate, that Brain was brought headlong into a topic in 1970 that would occupy him for the next 20 years. In the West Feliciana Parish of Louisiana, relic-hunter Leonard Charrier exhumed a cache of artifacts so large, that upon seeing it in the confines of Charrier’s ramshackle home, Dr. Brain recalled the experiences of Howard Carter upon the first opening of Pharaoh Tutankhamen’s tomb. That cache of artifacts, comprised of countless French-Indian trade items, became known as the Tunica Treasure and helped to build Dr. Brain's academic career. He wrote two monumental works from data obtained from the artifacts and ensuing excavations, *Tunica Treasure* (1979) and *Tunica Archaeology* (1988). The second volume is particularly significant because Dr. Brain was able to explain the nuances of Tunica culture change and cultural continuity that written history and Tunica oral tradition do not sufficiently describe. These two publications helped the Tunica Indians gain federal recognition from the United States government, and the publications remain a favorite of Dr. Brains to this day (Brain, personal communication).
Dr. Brain was also involved in studying the route of Hernando De Soto during this time and published several articles and book chapters on his research. The first was a joint paper written with Alan Toth and Antonio Rodriguez-Buckingham in 1972; using the concepts of ethnohistoric archaeology, they examined the route of the De Soto entrada. While the primary concern was to discover as fully as possible De Soto’s original route, their article was also concerned with outlining the methodological and theoretical problems inherent in conducting ethnohistoric archaeology. The authors defined two types of ethnohistories, qualitative and quantitative, and they used both types to best analyze their data. This data were then studied in conjunction with other ethnographies and archaeological data in order to arrive at their conclusions for the path of De Soto in the Mississippi valley. Known for his thorough analytical techniques, Dr. Brain never let a line of evidence slip him by (Creamer, personal communication). In 1975 he published *Artifacts of the Adelantado*, in which he studied the distribution of Clarksdale bells and glass/quartz beads throughout the Southern United States as a marker for the route of the Spanish. In Brain’s own terminology, bells and beads represent a Spanish “gift-kit” that was used for commerce and can subsequently be used by archaeologists as a diagnostic tool for spatial and chronological analysis. Brain’s penultimate contributions to De Soto studies were published simultaneously in 1985, one in a volume edited by Badger and Clayton, and the other in the Smithsonian Institution’s reprint of Swanton’s De Soto report. The former was titled *Archaeology of the De Soto Expedition*. In the essay, Dr. Brain describes methodological problems in locating, and identifying De Soto sites, and he reiterates his claim for the utility of trade bells and beads in tracking the entrada. Dr. Brain ends by stating that only excavation will shed light on the effects of the entrada on local indigenous populations. The latter, an introduction to Swanton’s report, is considered by Dr. Brain to be his most important
contribution to De Soto studies. In it, he details town by town his ideas on the route of the entrada, from the landing to the Gulf. His last publication on De Soto was in *Mississippi Archaeology* (1998) and is a response to a theory proposed by Charles Hudson on the De Soto entrada that places the town Quigaltam on the west bank of the Mississippi, contrary to Dr. Brain's east bank placement. Dr. Brain again turns to ethnohistoric documents and features of the Lower Mississippi Valley landscape to corroborate his hypothesis and contradict Hudson's. The De Soto studies represent a significant portion of his career, and exemplify his skill at making use of multiple lines of evidence to substantiate his suppositions.

When highlighting his major achievements, one must not forget the Lake George report (1983), co-authored with Steven Williams. A personal favorite of former Society of American Archaeology president Vincas Steponaitis (personal communication), the Lake George report summarizes three years of excavation in Yazoo County, Mississippi. The project was directed by Stephen Williams and it is a continuation of Dr. Brain’s association with the Lower Mississippi Survey of the Peabody Museum. Incorporating their extensive knowledge of the Lower Mississippi Valley into this work, Drs. Brain and Williams summarize the sequence of site occupation in terms of the changing cultural dynamics of the valley, thereby transforming this work into something far more consequential than a mere report of the excavation.

Though he published many more articles and books in between 1970 and 1996 than the ones mentioned above, none can be described as having as immense of an impact on Southeastern archaeology than *Shell Gorgets: Styles of the Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Southeast* (1996). Co-authored with his mentor Philip Phillips, this controversial book represents a culmination of immense study and the modification of an accepted paradigm in Southeastern studies. In this volume, the authors proposed that not all Indian cultures of the Mississippi Period
were in decline during the time of European contact. Indeed, the authors argue that the great chiefdoms still in existence during De Soto’s first contact depict Indian cultures in a political, economic and social florescence whose demise was precipitated by European contact. Brain and Phillips studied the presence of shell gorgets, Southeastern Ceremonial Complex items, in order to determine if the grand chiefdoms of the Mississippi period did indeed collapse in the mid 15th century, as current thinking in southeastern archaeology dictates. Finding results to the contrary, the authors suggest that the mid 15th century most likely saw the flowering of Mississippian traditions, and that its collapse most likely was close to the time of European contact. More specifically, they argue that the Southern Cult tradition extended far later into history than many archaeologists believe. Though this book has met with controversy over its conclusions, many tend to forget that the book offers an extraordinarily wide range of information on shell gorgets and related data. This volume represents the culmination of Dr. Brain’s career in southeastern archaeology, and is currently the last book he has written on the geographic region. His final work in the southeast is still in the works, it is a forth-coming volume on the archaeology of the Natchez Bluffs, to be co-authored with Ian Brown and Vincas Steponaitis (Brain, personal communication).

One year before the publication of *Shell Gorgets*, Dr. Brain released his first report on the investigations at Fort St. George (1995). Located at the mouth of the Kennebec River in Maine, Fort St. George marks the site of the failed 1607 Popham Colony. Brain first visited the site on a lark in 1990 when he and some friends were vacationing in Maine. Upon reading a placard declaring that an English colony was located there contemporary with Jamestown, Dr. Brain bemusedly attributed the error to local boastfulness, rather than to any historical reality (1995). While doing research for a museum exhibit at the Peabody Museum of Salem a year later, he
came across repeated references to the 1607 colony in Maine, though its exact location was still as of yet unknown. Dr. Brain discovered that two crews were dispatched from England to the Americas by James I, and were given the task of starting two colonies as a means of populating the New World. Popham was the colony in Maine and, being the more northerly and exposed to harsher weather, did not survive to be successful and thus faded into obscurity. The site of the original Popham colony continued to be unoccupied for two centuries subsequent to its abandonment, though the land traded hands several times. Dr. Brain thought this site possessed potential for research, and when the first survey in the spring of 1994 and subsequent excavation in the summer revealed portions of the fort, this potential was confirmed. Dr. Brain spent ten years excavating at the Popham site, 2005 being the final field season.

More personally, discussions about Dr. Brain inevitably lead to his sense of humor, his ardor in the field and his comprehensive and thorough research strategies. Whether it was “inadvertently” eating a graduate student’s carefully crafted sandwich (Steponaitis, personal communication) or rearranging a colleague’s presentation slides (Kidder, personal communication), Dr. Brain loved his practical jokes. But he wasn't just dealing it out; when a joker’s eyesight isn’t as good as those he pranks, he inevitably gets it in return (Brown, personal communication). Aside from practical joking, many of his students remember and honor Dr. Brain by continuing on with the field methods they learned from him. Brain had a strict and orderly way of organizing people, and work was always efficient without losing that human touch. One of Brain’s more senior and wiser students, Dr. Ian Brown remembers him like this - “Jeff instilled good habits in everyone. He was hard and very structured at first, but as people learned the program, he’d ease up. And there was always plenty of good food and cold beer. And no whining! ” (Brown, personal communication). Dr. Creamer thoughtfully reflected on
how Dr. Brain’s office might appear at retirement - “He was always thorough in his work. I’ll bet there won’t be a single box left on his shelf to analyze when he chooses to retire” (personal communication).

Time and time again his students have recalled his playful humor, his skills as a field director and the dedication to his work. This is as he should be remembered, by those people whose lives he influenced so greatly. They knew the man under the water, and understood the extent of the mighty iceberg hidden beneath the surface. Though he has no physical need to continue working in the field, he does it because he loves it. One can see that love in the quality of his research, his willingness to take risks in order to challenge the discipline and his willingness to explore new avenues of research.
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CRITICAL SUMMARIES

OF

TUNICA TREASURE,
TUNICA ARCHAEOLOGY,
LAKE GEORGE,
WINTERVILLE,
SHELL GORGETS AND,
FORT ST. GEORGE.

VOLUMES COMPOSED

BY

DR. JEFFREY P. BRAIN,

ARCHAEOLOGIST

SUMMARIES BY JAYUR MEHTA
In order to get a better picture of Dr. Brain's interests and archaeological pursuits, I've chosen a handful of his works to describe and critique in greater detail. The volumes that I've chosen all contain an aspect of culture contact, whether between groups of Indians or Indians and Europeans, and the changes that occur as a result. I present his works in chronological order as they were published, and I include the *Tunica* volumes together as they are both concerned with explicating the cache of artifacts known as the Tunica treasure. The other works I have chosen are *Lake George* (1983), *Winterville* (1989), *Shell Gorgets* (1996) and *Fort St. George* (1995-2005). I do not mean to compare these works against one another, instead I hope that through this presentation of material, the unifying threads of Dr. Brain's researches will become apparent.

**Tunica Treasure and Tunica Archaeology**

Comprised of countless artifacts from French-Indian interaction, the *Tunica Treasure* (1979) represents a significant aspect of Brain's academic career. He wrote two monumental works from data he obtained from the artifacts and ensuing excavations, *Tunica Treasure* and *Tunica Archaeology* (1988). In the first volume he describes the litigious nature of the artifacts and the decade long process by which the treasure finally found a home, as well as the details of the artifacts themselves. The second volume constitutes the meat of the research, in which Brain discusses data derived from archaeological excavations conducted from 1971 to 1982. This volume is concerned with the archaeological expression of the Tunica peoples, and how culture change and acculturation from French-Indian contact are witnessed in the archaeological record. This volume holds significant value as an academic composition for reasons two-fold; 1) because Brain employs a humanistic and historical methodology in his analysis, and 2) through this type
of analysis, Brain is able to explain the nuances of Tunica culture change and cultural continuity that written history and Tunica oral tradition do not sufficiently describe.

Describing the *Tunica Treasure* in significant detail will not be done in this paper, primarily because the volume is a descriptive piece. As I mentioned earlier, the beginning of the *Tunica Treasure* is about how the artifacts were discovered, and how they made their way to a final resting place. The reason the artifacts were discovered in the first place, and why it was so difficult to procure them for research, was all the result of amateur artifact hunter Leonard Charrier. In the first volume, Brain details the lengthy process by which Robert Neitzel first became aware of Charrier and the horde, and how Stephen Williams and himself eventually became involved. This is just the beginning of the story, and a small fraction of the actors involved in the process. Brain also details the process by which he looks for the original provenience of the site, which comically enough, is not anywhere near where he was originally looking. The rest of the *Tunica Treasure* is devoted to the artifacts; many French and Indian artifacts are presented in good detail in this volume. Color pictures would be better, of course, as would bigger pictures but this does not diminish the importance of the book.

In *Tunica Archaeology*, Brain successfully melds archaeological and ethnohistorical methods to define the migrations of the Tunica Indians over the span of almost half a millennia. He begins by describing the theoretical outlook he held while conducting his research, which he relates as being

…oriented more toward humanism and historicism than scientism. It [his research method] draws from traditional archaeology an empirical concern with the reconstruction of culture history and past lifeways; it shares with structural archaeology the search for internal explanatory factors, but it also accepts from scientistic archaeology the premise that the ultimate goal is pattern recognition and processual interpretation (Brain 1988; 4).
Brain adopts this outlook as it is the most beneficial for the goals of his writing, which are to delineate the changes resultant from culture contact and the processes responsible for such changes. Part 1 of the volume is a discussion of the Tunica from a historical perspective. He uses histories composed by the Spanish, French and British as a source for reconstructing Tunica lifeways and migrations during the period of early European-Indian contact. Brain’s aim in part 1 was to provide small windows into the life of the Tunica as they were in process of becoming adapted to European cultures. Part 2 is the search for archaeological expressions of the Tunica in the Upper and Lower Yazoo Basins, as over the course of 400 years they made their way southward beyond the territories of the Natchez. Brain uses the direct historical approach, tracing backwards through time the ethnic expression of Tunica peoples in order to gauge how the processes of culture change and acculturation were occurring. Finally, Brain arrives at the synopsis of his data in part 3, which follows the Tunica from the time of De Soto to their modern expression at Marksville. Representing the culmination of his theoretical and methodological efforts, and using data he obtained from ethnohistory and archaeology, part 3 is a narrative storytelling of the past 400 years of Tunica history. He also makes various conclusions on how demography, language, religion, social structure, settlement patterns, subsistence economies and material culture were affected by the various processes of culture change resultant from contact with foreign cultures. This final chapter to part 3 is remarkable in its depth and interpretation of data, as well as in its clarity. It is in this chapter that it becomes apparent that while Brain’s work is extremely academic in its nature, fulfilling the needs of scholarly interest, Brain also writes for the layman interested in the history of a people. The narrative style of part 3 is commendable in that it makes his research accessible to all readers who have only but a brief, and cursory understanding of the region’s history.
In the next volume, *Lake George*, the Drs. Brain and Williams are attempting to understand the chronological sequence of occupation at the Lake George site. Subject to over one thousand years of occupation, the site presents an excellent opportunity to discover how human culture, and consequently material culture, changes through time.

**Excavations at the Lake George Site**

Consisting of 25 mounds, the Lake George site encapsulates an area of approximately 55 acres and is located on prime agricultural soil. The archaeological site was excavated between the years the 1958 and 1960. Subject to speculative archaeological interest for over 40 years, Williams and Brain excavated this site with the Lower Mississippi Survey (LMS) as part of ongoing extensive research and survey in the Yazoo Basin.

The Lake George complex represents various iterations of occupation through time. Although the Lake George site was heavily occupied for the last 1000 years of prehistory leading up to European contact, some earlier contexts were recovered (Poverty Point, Tchefuncte); the earliest examples of isolable contexts and significant occupations come from the Baytown cultural traditions. Other significant occupations of the site are from the Aden (A.D. 700-850), and Kings Crossing (A.D. 850-1000) phases of the Coles Creek period. These two are particularly relevant for culture-area studies as the beginnings of ranked agricultural societies in the Lower Mississippi Valley (LMV) generally fall within this time frame (Smith 1987:198). The subsequent three phases, Crippen Point (A.D. 1000-1200), Winterville (A.D. 1200-1400) and Lake George (A.D. 1400-1600) witness the developing complexity and subsequent abandonment of the site. Williams and Brain’s discussion of the various phases at the Lake George site allows them the opportunity to discuss the progression of mound construction through time, as well as
the evolving complexity of the culture in residence. Williams and Brain study the cultural chronology they developed for the Lake George site and, subsequently, discuss that chronology in relation to other sites in the lower Yazoo basin. Utilizing the outmoded Palo, Meso, and Neo-Indian eras as gross guidelines, the authors divide the concluding chapter in this manner to conjecture on the cultural dynamics in the region. They provide extensive analysis of cultural development through time, attributing the final Mississippi period in the region to be a result of gradual, later influences. One additional discussion they provide is on the Southern Cult, or Southeastern Ceremonial Complex (SECC), for which Lake George has provided extensive artifacts, though not necessarily from the 1958-1960 excavations. Foreshadowing future controversy in Brain’s career, the authors claim that no direct association links Mississippian culture, religiosity, and the Southern Cult. They claim the cult to be a strictly iconographic phenomena limited in scope to only a few types of high prestige artifacts, and spatially restricted to a few large mound centers; therefore, the Southern Cult could not be uniformly expressive of all Mississippian cultural paradigms. In the LMV, Southern Cult artifacts have been found in trace levels, with the large preponderance of artifacts coming from the Lake George site. Some Southern Cult artifacts have been found at Winterville. Nevertheless, the sparse discoveries of Southern Cult artifacts in the LMV have all been discovered in secure contexts, and confirmed by data from Winterville and Lake George. Consequently, Williams and Brain conclude that the terminal occupation of the Lake George site, and expression of the Southern Cult, must at least post-date A.D. 1410.

The following volume considers what happens when two different groups of Indians with dissimilar ways of living meet. This volume also considers Southern Cult items, an interest of Dr. Brain's that is prevalent in many of his works.
Winterville: Late Prehistoric Culture Contact in the Lower Mississippi Valley

An early example of his interest in culture contacts, Dr. Brain writes about the influence of two converging cultural styles, Mississippian and Coles Creek, at the site of Winterville. This report is a revision of his doctoral dissertation, which he completed almost twenty years prior. The site is ideally located for culture contact studies, as it is located geographically at the extreme northern boundary of the Coles Creek culture and the lowest southern boundary of Mississippian cultural styles. Brain contends that the term Mississippian is too often used as a general term to describe a time period, a development stage, a cultural phase, a people and as various artifact types. He attributes these various uses as evidence of its broad influence, but also to the misappropriation of the term. He defines it as “a complex of traits and inferred behavior which in the context of the Lower Valley are not seen as indigenous to the Yazoo region.” (Brain 1989:1) The indigenous cultural type to the Yazoo Basin is Coles Creek, which Brain states developed in the area as a response to the local environment and expanded homogenously throughout the region as far north as the Arkansas River. Since the Winterville site is located along the northern edge of the Coles Creek influence and was occupied for a significant length of time (circa 500 years), Winterville provides Brain with the opportunity to trace the development of Mississippian influences stemming from Cahokia. Using established chronologies from the material culture, ceramics and lithics, he provides a detailed timeline for how Coles Creek was transformed into Plaquemine as a result of Mississippian influence from Cahokia. Brain ultimately concludes that the entire Yazoo region was eventually Mississippianized which is demonstrated in the final stages of Winterville occupation by artifacts with Southern Cult motifs.
Again, following conclusions formed at Lake George, and later emphasized in *Shell Gorgets* (1996), Brain dates the influence of the Southern Cult to after A.D. 1400.

**Shell Gorgets: Styles of the Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Southeast**

The Southern Cult, or the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex (SECC), describes the expression of various recurring themes on different types of media. Themes often prevalent in the SECC are the spider, rattlesnake, mask, anthropomorphic bird-human, and various other geometric representations. These designs were often presented on pipes, bowls, plates, and among various other items, shell gorgets. The latter form is the marker used by Brain and Phillips to identify for the presence of SECC influence throughout space and time at archaeological sites in the Southeastern United States. Using shell gorgets as a stylistic and temporal marker, the authors wish to establish a revised chronology for the presence of the SECC in the Southeast and, consequently, in Mississippian traditions. In *Shell Gorgets*, the authors propose that not all Indian cultures of the Mississippi Period were in decline during the time of European contact. The authors suggest that the chiefdoms still in existence during De Soto’s first contact depict Indian cultures in a political, economic and social florescence and that it was European contact that precipitated their demise. Using shell gorgets as a tool for understanding Mississippian influence in the Southeast, Brain and Phillips study their presence at archaeological sites to determine if the grand chiefdoms of the Mississippi period truly did collapse in the 15th century. Finding results to the contrary, the authors suggest that 15th century most likely saw the flowering of Mississippian traditions, and that its collapse most likely was close to the time of European contact.
The conclusions the authors posit from their research are controversial in the world of Southeastern archaeology, particularly to those who hold contradictory information, because they call for the complete revision of some very commonly accepted dates. Specifically, the authors believe the Southern Cult tradition to have been at its peak in the 15th century. Before I step into the battle over chronology, I will first outline how Brain and Phillips conducted their study and arrived at their conclusions.

The volume is divided into three parts; Gorget Styles, Archaeological Contexts, and Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Dynamics. Part 1 displays all the various iterations of shell gorgets using a system of classification distinct from those previous constructed by William Henry Holmes (1883) and Madeline Kneburg (1959). Brain and Phillips’s classification of the gorgets, after spending considerable amounts of time studying art history and archaeology, is based on the processes of production, not symbolic representation. Brain and Phillips argue that classifying such artifacts according to their means of production allows one to retain a degree of objectivity. Rather than deal with issues of subjective symbolic interpretation, they consider techniques of manufacture, form and structure. Part 2 discusses the regional implications of gorgets, and is organized based on the regional centers where the artifacts were discovered. In this section they discuss Etowah and Moundville in detail as they were significant centers where SECC artifacts were found; 51 other sites are discussed according to their regional classification. Part 3 begins with a broader consideration of artifacts, including various beads, copper materials, stone artifacts, and pottery. They conclude that some of these artifacts are so homogenous that they must have been made in workshops and then distributed through trade networks. Bringing all their analyses together, and through the correlation of archaeological contexts and artifacts, Brain and Phillips decide that the high water mark of gorget design and proliferation must be
isolated to the terminal prehistoric. They argue against Kneberg’s needlessly long seriation; they attribute the earlier dates derived from Cahokia to radiocarbon analysis. From their data, they conclude that no gorgets would have been deposited before the 15th century. Because these gorgets were deposited later in the archaeological record than has previously been assumed, Brain and Phillips believe that the Mississippian decline commonly dated to A.D. 1400-1540 is just not correct. Instead, they place the demise of Mississippian culture at around the time of European contact, thereby characterizing the invaders as being the harbingers of Mississippian doom.

Jon Muller’s (1997) scathing criticism of Shell Gorgets revolves around what constitutes “Cult” paraphernalia, methods used for dating, and style usage. Muller begins by stating that the Peabody Museum Press did not credit him for his photos, and for this I must assume he feels slighted. If, as Muller points out, Post-Cult styles do exist, then what is it that constitutes Cult and post-Cult? As to dating, I must profess ignorance because from both Brain and Phillip’s writing and in Muller’s response, the techniques behind dating using grave lots and mass burials is confusing. Muller also claims that Brain and Phillips’s thematic types are not based on subjective styles, but rather on construction and function, and so they will have no culture-historical utility. Though he does call the design of the book “nice” (178), his overriding theme in the review is negative. All in all, it appears that Muller has a very large problem with the synthesis presented by Brain and Phillips.

One year prior to the publication of the Shell Gorgets volume, Dr. Brain had started excavations in Kennebec, Maine on the Popham colony. Though not explicitly dealing with culture contact in his reports, this site gives Dr. Brain the opportunity to study what happens to a European colony upon first contact with the Americas.
Fort St. George

The first in a series that will occupy Brain’s academic career forthwith, the first Fort St. George report discusses the archaeology and inherent issues in locating the 1607 Popham colony and the fort established there. The Popham colony is contemporaneous with the Jamestown colony and represents the investments of British colonialism and the desire claim the New World for the British sovereign. While this culture area is far removed from Brain’s own work in the LMV and the Southeast, it represents a continuation of his interest in culture contacts between Native Americans and Europeans.

Dr. Brain begins the series in volume 1 with an in depth discussion of the historical background of the Popham Colony. The Popham and Jamestown colonies were both deeded lands in which to propagate; north of the 41st parallel and south of the 38th parallel, respectively. The colony that was successful in establishing themselves would be given the land in between the two colonies. Using his established narrative style, Brain retells the history of the Popham colonists starting from their departure from Plymouth in 1607, their difficulties in the ensuing winter, and their abandonment of the site in 1608. The site of the original Popham colony continued to be unused for two centuries subsequent to abandonment, though the land traded hands several times. The military acquired it in the early 20th century, as did the state of Maine, and now it is managed by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

The initial excavations discovered the meager remains of Fort St. George, itself quite diminutive, however enough was recovered to warrant further inquiry. The next excavations were conducted in 1997 and focused on a storehouse depicted in John Hunt’s map of Fort St. George. The 1998 excavations continued work on the storehouse, as well as some additional excavations on the fortifications at the site. In 1999 the storehouse excavations were completed
and the remains to what possibly could be Admiral Raleigh Gilbert’s house were discovered.
Throughout these digs, the obviousness of the value of the historical record becomes priceless, as
Brain is using, as well as testing, the validity of John Hunt’s map of the area. Excavations are
now completed at the site of the Popham colony and Dr. Brain is working a monumental volume
that will include the excavation data from the Popham excavations, as well as the prehistory of
Maine’s inhabitants beginning 8000 years ago.

In Summation

No grand conclusions will be offered here; this paper consisted of summaries of several
works that I deem to be important. How did I judge which of his works to be important? I
certainly could have used page numbers, given that these works generally spanned over 300
pages. Rather, I chose to write about his works that contained large amounts of descriptive and
synthetic data. These works I feel best represented his ability to take large amounts of data and
incorporate them into meaningful synopses. Some of his works are controversial; indeed, one
can see the beginnings of his controversial opinions on the Southern Cult early in his writing,
while others like the Tunica volumes have been met with significant praise. Nevertheless, the
value of his writing is not diminished, nor is the skill with which he composes. *Winterville, Lake
George, Tunica* and *Shell Gorgets* all represent Brain’s extraordinary ability to manage,
condense, and interpret massive quantities of data (Fort St. George is not mentioned here as no
synthesis has been presented). One must get intimidated merely thinking of his artifact
inventories. A unifying theme in Jeffrey P. Brain's research is the forces at work and the changes
that occur as a result of cultural contact; significantly, how does the process of acculturation
occur, and how is it manifest in the archaeological record. His focus has been on how Indian
cultures are influenced by outside forces, whether those interactions are between Indians and Indians, or between Indians and Europeans. The volumes mentioned in this report focus on this theme of culture change, all with the exception of Fort St. George, which, as I have mentioned, is still a work in progress. And finally, Jeffrey P. Brain must be praised for his writing style as it is neither sophomoric in composition, nor pretentious in presentation; he writes in a narrative that is both easy to read, and intellectually stimulating.
Bibliography

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Brain, Jeffrey P., and Philip Phillips

Holmes, William H.

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An Annotated Bibliography Of The Work’s Of Jeffrey P. Brain

Summaries by Jayur Mehta
Brain, Jeffrey P.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- A very short piece that demonstrates Indian occupation in the Yazoo Basin before 5000 years ago, contrary to findings by Haag in 1961 that state Archaic remains in the Lower Mississippi Valley would be missing because of destroyed surfaces. Brain recovered projectile points from eight sites that have Early Archaic and subsequently later occupations, and plotted the sites on a map showing the Mississippi River in order to demonstrate that not all Archaic surfaces would have been destroyed over the course of time.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- An early assessment of the “Tunica Treasure” by Dr. Brain. The Bulletin contains information regarding the Tunica Indians, what the cache of artifacts could possibly represent, where it was found, and the significance of the collection in terms of French-Indian trading and Indian ceramic chronology. This Bulletin is extremely interesting considering the difficulties that followed the artifacts for the subsequent ten years.

Brain, Jeffrey P.
Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Written and composed for the US Army Corps of Engineers, this report was written as a companion to Saucier’s Lower Mississippi Valley (LMV) Geology report and Kniffen’s European settlement report, all comprising the Corp’s Comprehensive Basin Study. Brain’s report is an examination of the importance of the LMV for archaeology, as well as a synthesis of the areas history, from Paleo-Indian to historic Contact times. Coles Creek, and Mississippian traditions are utilized, as well as their respective component phases, to order Indian history in the region. In less than one hundred pages, Brain summarizes Indian history in the LMV and concludes that by the Neo-Indian era, cultural groups had become specifically valley oriented in their subsistence and life-oriented patterns. Brain ends with an appeal for preservation in which he asks if we really need assume that the entire valley be destroyed by agriculture, should the final phase of valley life result in the destruction of all things historical?

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- This article is about how Natchez social structure was organized in the time before European contact, and an exploration into its potential origins. Brain begins with a straightforward explanation of the dualism of the system between nobility and commoners. The system is matrilineal, and stinkards (commoners) can gain temporary noble status by extraordinary achievement. The second half of this article is devoted to explaining the origins of Natchez social structure, which Brain attributes to a modified Plaquemine cultural system adapted to accommodate external pressures resulting from European invasion and colonization.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- This Bulletin represents the continuation in research related to the “Tunica Treasure”, in which Dr. Brain describes test excavations conducted at the Trudeau site in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. The purpose of this dig was to determine the original provenience of the Tunica Treasure. Several blocks of varying size were excavated and Trudeau was characterized as an Indian village and cemetery. French maps from the respective time period confirm this assertion. French artifacts were also discovered with a burial on the site. Brain states this site is extremely important because it presents an opportunity to document changing cultures and French-Indian interaction during the Protohistoric and early historic periods.
Brain, Jeffrey P.

- In this paper, Brain traces the path of De Soto and his comrades through the Southeast using the common goods of the Spanish, as opposed to the finery of swords, knives and other high class paraphernalia. More specifically, the distribution of Clarksdale bells, and glass/quartz beads throughout the Southern United States can be used to trace the route of the Spanish explorers as those two items were the principal trade objects. Bells and beads represent a Spanish “gift-kit” that was used for commerce and, subsequently the can be used by archaeologists as diagnostic tools for spatial and chronological analysis.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain questions whether the development and complexity of the Mississippi period can be solely attributed to corn agriculture. Is corn agriculture a necessary precursor for socio-politico-religico development, and does it always have a positive effect on development? Brain concludes that rather than discuss if corn was present or not, it is more significant to learn to what extent corn was managed. He finds that though corn initially had a deleterious effect on cultural development in the LMV, it can still be considered a requisite condition for Mississippian complexity, because it heralded the corn-bean-squash triumvirate and subsequent Mississippian ceremonial lifestyles.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- A favorable book review by Brain, he lauds Gilliland’s summary of the material remains at Key Marco, Florida. While he provides genuine criticisms of her work, overall he appears impressed with her achievement, and gives credit where it is due, although if I were the writer of the subject under review, I be embarrassed for the detail of faults brought to light.
Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Brain continues his discussions on the Tunica, the “treasure” and its implications. He provides critical background on who the Tunica were, and frames their origins within the Mississippian complex. He tells of their battles with the Natchez and their strategic alliance with the French; in particular, how their control of the horse trade provided necessary goods to the French. The article ends with the downfall of the Tunica, their partnership with the Biloxi, and their eventual move to Marksville.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- In this article Brain relates that the LMV was a favorable habitat for Pleistocene era mega-fauna, which consequently made the LMV a highly suitable location for human habitation. The paucity of sites attributed to the respective time frame suggests that the meandering of the Mississippi River might be destroying archaeological evidence. Another possibly for the lack of dated Paleo-Indian sites in the LMV is that researchers up until recently were simply just not looking for Paleo-Indian remains.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- In this brief essay, Brain writes about whether archaeological phases can corroborate directly with actual time-frames from ethnohistory. Using chronicles from the De Soto expedition, Brain links specific phases created from the patterned expression of material remains to ethnic groups in the Southeast. Brain believes that some correlations can be made between the two, especially when the entire history of the region is considered. This relationship is achieved because the time-frame of the archaeology and ethnohistoric documents are coeval. What makes this correlation even more significant is that the respective phases were formulated independent of the documentary evidence, suggesting that some reality is conceivable for the archaeological phase.
Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Brain describes the phenomena of changing cultural traditions in the LMV as a result of an influx of ideas from the northern Mississippi river valley. Brain uses traditionally defined Mississippian criteria, the archaeological evidence, as a means to explain the nuances of cultural change in the Yazoo and Natchez regions. His goal is to break down the accepted synchronous time period into its component parts. He describes various different culture contacts and how they influenced each other in the LMV.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- This volume begins with Brain retelling the story of how the Tunica Treasure was obtained by the Peabody Museum from Leonard Charrier and then returned to Louisiana over a series of court room deliberations. Brain fills the remaining 300 pages with significant detail on the artifacts of the treasure. The first of two volumes, Tunica Treasure is a descriptive venture that recounts the varieties of artifacts contained within. The end of the volume does contain some interpretation relating to the importance of French-Indian trade in the Feliciana Parish of Louisiana, though the bulk of analysis is left for the second volume, Tunica Archaeology.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

Brain, Jeffrey P.
Brain, Jeffrey P.

- This research report was conducted by the Lower Mississippi Survey (LMS) under the auspices of the Louisiana Office of State Parks. The purpose of this report is to describe the Trudeau site and its future potential for archaeological excavation. The Trudeau site was home to the Tunica Treasure, and Indians of the same name during the middle 18th century. Dr. Brain concludes that the site holds a large amount of research potential because so many subsurface features were detected and still lie unexcavated. Additionally, the presence of some kind of structure on a high bluff at the site indicates that possibly someone of power, maybe ceremonial or political, lived there.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- A brief article in which Brain gives an overview of Tunica history, their process of acculturation and assimilation, and the utility of archaeological recovery to assist extant native groups in gaining federal recognition. Brain writes about how the Tunica were changing and adapting as they moved southward from Quizquiz, to the southern Yazoo basin, to Angola Farm, to Trudeau, and, finally, to Marksville, where they currently exist as the Tunica-Biloxi.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- In this short article, Dr. Brain gives a mostly favorable review of a book that is very similar in style to his own *Tunica Treasure*. Burr’s Hill was a burial site that was destroyed almost seventy years ago, and it’s contents would not have survived if it were not for the efforts of librarian C.R. Carr. The contents of the burials were saved by Carr and are what provide the content for the *Burr’s Hill* volume. Dr. Brain praises the authors for composing a beautiful, data laden book that makes sense of artifacts that are out of context, but lambastes them for poor organization, not discussing all the artifacts in detail and irregularities in the artifact categories.
Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain favors this book for the contributions it makes to the study of prehistoric ecological systems; subsistence strategies are well explicated in terms of the natural environment and the potential caloric value embedded within ecosystems. Dr. Brain calls this volume a “notable reference”, marred only by a lack of connection to the prehistoric lifeways of Aboriginal Indians.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain praises the authors of this book for their excellent consideration of the Weeden Island culture, as well as their overall effort in summarizing the whole ecological prehistory of Florida. They provide a useful recreation of ecological patterns through time and space that Dr. Brain feels will be relevant to the student of southeastern prehistory.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- The book under review in this article is a general summary of the prehistoric sequence of Native American occupation in Alabama and the middle south. Dr. Brain gives it a sympathetic review, though he does not approve of the Mesoamerican influences discussed by the author. Also, as the book did not get published until six years after its composition, the material it contains is a little dated.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- The Trudeau site is located in the West Feliciana Parish of southern Louisiana and is the original resting place of the Tunica Treasure. In this report, Dr. Brain outlines the ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the site, excavations conducted, artifacts recovered and the interpretation of the artifact assemblage. The GPR survey proved to be of little value except in indicating areas that had subsurface soil disturbances. This study confirmed that Trudeau was the location of a middle 18th century Tunica village.
Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Using written records from the La Salle expedition, and data from archaeological research, Brain builds a chronology of how the Natchez were distributed along the Natchez Bluffs in the late 17th and early 18th centuries and how La Salle may have encountered them. He attributes Swanton’s problem with the La Salle documents and where the Natchez were actually located to be an issue of interpretation, and that modern data give the Natchez a much broader distribution than previously assumed.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- In this report Brain describes the archaeological profile of the Tunica in the LMV, Vicksburg/Angola area. The purpose of the research was to find Tunica Indian sites dating to the early 18th century, as well as to learn more about French-Indian contact.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- In this review, Dr. Brain praises the author for his work on establishing a chronology for the occupation of Moundville by developing a type-variety classification of Moundville ceramics. Using ceramic analysis, classification and seriation, the author was able to classify ceramics that previously were assigned to one phase. Dr. Brain provides a laudatory description of the author’s book chapter by chapter, only bringing one small criticism to the table; the price the publisher had set for the book.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain presents his research on de Soto and explains what further utility De Soto studies might have. He maintains his position that the entrada must have taken a route across northwest Mississippi, though this is not the meat of the article. Dr. Brain emphasizes the importance of the De Soto chronicles for understanding the impact of European contact in the southeastern United States. He believes that the chronicles give archaeology as privileged vantage point from which to conduct Protohistoric studies.
Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain’s introduction provides a step by step analysis of the De Soto entrada, from the landing in Florida to the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Brain discusses the interpretations of the De Soto Expedition commission and the lines of evidence they utilized. He then provides contemporary research that has modified or supported the claims of the commission. Dr. Brain ends by stating that continued research on the De Soto entrada has not brought archaeologists any closer to determining the exact route of the explorers.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- In this article, Dr. Brain describes methodological problems in locating and identifying De Soto sites and he reiterates his claim for the utility of trade bells and beads in tracking the entrada. Dr. Brain ends by claiming that only excavation will shed light on the effect of the entrada on local indigenous populations.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain’s only criticism of this compilation of essays written from 1946 to 1978 is that they do not acknowledge any research conducted in the Southeast before the advent of the modern era, i.e., the development of academic archaeology. Overall he feels these essays are important contributions to southeastern studies.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain reviews the articles in this volume as being well thought out, though not always relevant to the general topic of the book. Overall, it is a positive review highlighting the important contributions of John Swanton and Cherokee studies, though he feels the editors introduction is unclear.
Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain states that though the Choctaw were a major southeastern tribe, they are the least studied, and it is reflected in the sparseness of this volume. In general he claims this to be an important volume that makes use of research that has been difficult to find.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- An honorific review of both the editor and the essays chosen, Dr. Brain gives praise to both as scholars of French documents pertaining to the Mississippi Valley. He believes the editor deserves a volume of her own, and believes the essays she chose to be useful and informative, and all the more special as they are difficult to find.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- A positive review, Dr. Brain is pleased with how the editor chose to divide the essays according to topic area, i.e., linguistics, ethno-history, archaeology, etc. Dr. Brain claims that more papers on archaeology would have been better, but as most are too long to be included, the editors choice in essays is understandable.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Although this volume contains only a few articles on late prehistory, Dr. Brain gives it a positive review as it contains important and rare articles that are not easy to find. He praises the editor for his thoughtful synthesis in the introduction, and only criticizes the poor quality of some of the article transfers.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain reiterates the authors claim for the importance of shell mounds in archaeological study and how early researches into shell mounds influenced
methodology and interpretation of archaeological sites and data. These studies formed the early roots of emphasizing stratigraphy in excavation.

Brain, Jeffrey P.  

- The Creek were a confederacy comprised of many refugees during the time of European contact. This volume represents a significant amount of information on the Creeks that is difficult to obtain, and which complements the more expansive works by Swanton.

Brain, Jeffrey P.  

- Dr. Brain praises the editor for compiling a massive amount of information on the Seminole. He also states that the field in Seminole archaeology is wide open should a student take interest in it, as an article in the volume claims.

Brain, Jeffrey P.  

Brain, Jeffrey P.  

Brain, Jeffrey P.  

- In the second volume related to the Tunica Treasure, Brain discusses data derived from archaeological excavations conducted from 1971 to 1982. This volume is concerned with the archaeological expression of the Tunica peoples, and how culture change and acculturation from French-Indian contact are witnessed in the archaeological record. This volume holds significant value as an academic composition because 1), Brain employs a humanistic and historical methodology in his analysis, contrary to the growing scientism in the field of archaeology, and 2) through this type of analysis, Brain is able to explain the nuances of Tunica culture change and cultural continuity that written history and Tunica oral tradition do not sufficiently describe.
Brain, Jeffrey P.
1989 *Winterville: Late Prehistoric Culture Contact in the Lower Mississippi Valley.*

- This study of the Winterville site is a significant contribution to Southeastern archaeology, as it represents the interaction of the more northern Mississippian culture and southern Coles Creek culture. Brain’s report examines the archaeology of the site; he describes the pertinent background information, summarizes the fieldwork and presents data on artifacts recovered. The final portion of the report analyzes the cultural dynamics of the two influencing groups at the site and in the region.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Expressing a more narrative style in this work, Brain recants the story of the Tunica, beginning with their origins at Quizquiz and ending with their habitation at Marksville. Brain seamlessly blends data from ethnohistory, archaeology, and ethnography into an entertaining prose that makes no mention of theory, method, and practice. This is an excellent book for the neophyte of Native American history.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain discusses Cahokian influences in the LMV in this essay. He states that cultural styles from Cahokia must have traveled down river from Missouri or Arkansas, their impact felt as far down as the lower Yazoo Basin. Local imitations of Cahokia style ceramics are present in the LMV, suggesting that contact changed the indigenous Coles Creek culture dramatically.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain favorably reviews this collection of essays and extols the need for a comprehensive history of the discipline. A drawback he claims of this volume is that it is too limited in breadth to do the discipline adequate justice, although it is a good start. Another criticism is that the essays need to be more cohesive thematically in order to for the book to have utility as a whole. Dr. Brain is impressed by the inclusion of a 111 page bibliography, though he finds it odd that Clarence B. Moore is nowhere to be found in those 111 pages.
Brain, Jeffrey P.

- In this collection of essays gathered together in honor of Stephen Williams, Dr. Brain finds some that are impressive, and other that are not. He criticizes two articles for not discussing what makes their particular topics relevant in a given cultural context. As a whole, he claims that these essays help to reveal the history of the discipline and the contributions of the archaeologists who helped to build Southeastern archaeology.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- The first Fort St. George report discusses the archaeology and inherent issues in locating the 1607 Popham colony and fort. Contemporaneous with the Jamestown colony, Popham represents the investments of British colonialism and the desire to claim the New World with Great Britain. The excavations discovered meager remains of the fort, itself quite diminutive, though enough was recovered to warrant further inquiry.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- This report is a summary of one week of excavation at the Popham site; a week that was spent looking for the remains of a storehouse that was depicted on a map drawn by one Popham’s original residents, John Hunt. Dr. Brain, in addition to looking for additional evidence of the fort, was also testing the accuracy of Hunt’s map. Though initial evidence from the excavation contradicted the map and showed the fort to be smaller than depicted in the map, excavation of the storehouse demonstrated that, in fact, Hunt’s drawings were accurate. Further evidence of the fort trace was not encountered.

Brain, Jeffrey P.
- The 98’ excavations were spent demarcating the north and west walls of the storehouse, exploring the interior of the storehouse to determine use and function, and further tracing the outlines of the fort. Dr. Brain, confident in Hunt’s map, utilized it as a guide in planning his excavation and finding other features at the site. By this third year, Dr. Brain was able to devise a preliminary sequence of occupation for the site; as it was largely abandoned for two hundred years after abandonment, Hunt’s map proved to be even more reliable as post-Popham disturbances were scarce. Dr. Brain claims that the storehouse was built for a long term occupation, and that the interior contents suggest that munitions and trade goods were kept in the storehouse. Traces of the fort and trench were discovered to be where Hunt had drawn them, adding further credibility to his map.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- Dr. Brain defends the Friar Point hypothesis against a route for the De Soto entrada proposed by Charles Hudson. The discrepancy lies in where one interprets the town of Quigaltam to have been during the mid 16th century. Dr. Brain supports his argument by aligning modern geographical features with those mentioned in ethno-historic documents.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- This field season saw the continued excavation at the storehouse along its southern periphery and at the site of Raleigh Gilbert’s house. Determining the location of Gilbert’s house was to be another test of Hunt’s accuracy. The complete dimensions of the storehouse were determined to be just shy of Hunt’s drawing, although this could be attributed to the fact that the house was most likely in construction while Hunt was making his map. Hunt’s reputation was bolstered when Gilbert’s house was found to be where he had drawn it. Dr. Brain believes that Gilbert’s house will prove to be a very useful data set as it is the home of a town leader, not a communal storehouse.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- The goals for this field season were to determine what Raleigh Gilbert’s house looked like, who its occupants were, how it was destroyed and if it conforms to the
dimensions in Hunt’s map. A portion of the fort trace was also to be excavated. Brain discovered that Gilbert’s house was most likely constructed quickly, as the irregular location of postholes in the soil indicates. He attributes this to the fact that the construction of communal structures occupied the skilled carpenters, and shelters for the residents likely went up quickly when weather conditions worsened. More of the fort trace was also discovered, as well as part of the trench surrounding the fort.

Brain, Jeffrey P.


- This field season was to be a significant test of the Hunt map; four structures portrayed on his map, but not mentioned in the literature, were to be tested for. Part of the impetus for shifting away from any previously conducted excavations to testing for additional structures was to further determine the archaeological potential of the Popham site. Evidence for three structures was discovered through sampling and testing of the area where Hunt had drawn them; no evidence for the structure described as the Munitions Master’s home was discovered.

Brain, Jeffrey P.


Brain, Jeffrey P.


- The goal for the 2003 field season was to further delineate the remains of three residences: the buttery and attached corporal’s house, the Vice admiral’s house, and the humbler housing. The excavations identified the location of the “lake” (common usage at that time dictated that a channel for water can be called a lake) that was drawn in Hunt’s map. At the end of this field season, Dr. Brain believed his was close to finding the buttery, but the other structures he was looking for proved to still be elusive.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

During this field season, attention was focused on the buttery and attached corporal’s house, the vice-admiral’s house, the “lake” and at the storehouse. Excavations were not conclusive in determining the location of the buttery or the vice-admiral’s house. Dr. Brain concludes that either these structures were never present, or that they are too difficult to ‘see’ archaeologically. Ground penetrating radar was also utilized for the first time, and was instrumental in determining sections of the fortification trench.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

Brain, Jeffrey P., Alan Toth, and Antonio Rodriguez-Buckingham

- A complex paper in which the route of the De Soto entrada is examined using the concepts of ethno-historic archaeology. While the primary concern is to discover as fully as possible De Soto’s original route, this article is also concerned with outlining the methodological and theoretical problems inherent in conducting ethno-historic archaeology. The authors defined two types of ethno-histories, essentially qualitative and quantitative, in order to utilize the four histories known from the De Soto entrada. This data was then studied in conjunction with other ethnographies and archaeological data in order to arrive at their conclusions for the path of De Soto in the Mississippi valley. Finally they state their hopes that further archaeology in the region will eventually be able to substantiate or repudiate their claims.

Brain, Jeffrey P., and Ian W. Brown (editors)

Brain, Jeffrey P., and Philip Phillips  
1996 *Shell Gorgets: Styles of the Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Southeast.*  

- In this volume, the authors propose that not all Indian cultures of the Mississippi Period were in decline during the time of European contact. The authors suggest that the great chiefdoms still in existence during De Soto’s first contact depict Indian cultures in a political, economic and social florescence and that it was European contact that precipitated their demise. Using shell gorgets as a tool for understanding Mississippian influence in the Southeast, as they are an expression of the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex, Brain and Phillips study their presence at archaeological sites to determine if the grand chiefdoms of the Mississippi period collapsed in the mid 15th century. Finding results to the contrary, the authors suggest that the mid 15th century most likely saw the flowering of Mississippian traditions and Southern Cult items, and that the collapse of large scale Indian societies were closer to the time of European contact.

Brain, Jeffrey P., and Stephen Williams  
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

- A festschrift in honor of Philip Phillips, Brain and Williams compile brief tributes that remember Phillips as a archaeologist, mentor and friend. Contributions come from thirty of his friends and colleagues who recall his impact in the field of archaeology and on the Lower Mississippi Survey.

Brain, Jeffrey P., and Stephen Williams  

- A preliminary letter in which the authors explore the function of the Lower Mississippi Survey, and possibilities for future research. The authors identify the initial reasons for the creation of the LMS as for the identification of sites, development of local chronologies, large scale integration of the LMV into the Southeast and United States and cultural reconstructions of past life-ways. They justify the call for more archaeology as a means to explore the temporal and spatial relationships of the Natchez and their friends and foes. They identify the Tunica particularly as a significant group for study, as they were well documented by early travelers. Additionally, though it was yet unknown, the archaeological expression of the Tunica was quite disperse, diverse and unique, thus making them an ideal group for study, as researchers would have both archaeology and ethnohistory to corroborate their data.
Brain, Jeffrey P., and Stephen Williams
1983 *Excavations at the Lake George Site: Yazoo County, Mississippi, 1958-1960*

    - This report summarize three years of excavation in Yazoo county, Mississippi. It is continuation of Dr. Brain’s association with the Lower Mississippi Survey of the Peabody Museum. Incorporating his extensive knowledge of the lower Mississippi valley into this work, Dr. Brain summarizes the sequence of site occupation in terms of the changing cultural dynamics of the valley, transforming this work into something far more consequential than a mere report of the excavation.

Brain, Jeffrey P., George Roth, and William J. de Reuse

    - A basic description of the Tunica, Biloxi and Ofo Indians, the authors describe their language, history and culture. They provide detailed information on their built structures, religion, socio-politico organization, recreation, subsistence and technology. Although the article is about all three groups, a significant portion of the article is dedicated to the Tunica Indians.

Steponaitis, Vincas P., and Jeffrey P. Brain

    - The authors describe how a proton magnetometer functions, construction techniques, and operation methods. A magnetometer can detect magnetic aberrations in the soil caused by iron or other ferrous metals, burned features and complex soil anomalies such as midden soils in mixed context with sterile soils.