

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Museum of Anthropology deaccession of two collections of botanical materials

Background and summary:

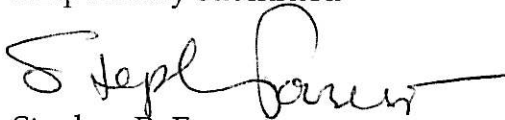
In 1978, C. Wesley Cowan, a graduate student in the UM Anthropology Department, received permission to conduct excavation at two rock shelter sites in Kentucky: Cloudsplitter Rockshelter in Menifee County and Haystack Rockshelter in Powell County. Both of these sites are located within the Daniel Boone National Forest. The materials, Museum collections 15-Mf-36 and 15-Po-47, respectively, have been held at the Museum of Anthropology since that time. The collections consist predominantly of botanical samples from processed and unprocessed soils. There are no human remains or grave goods.

After reviewing records and interviewing the original excavator, it was determined that these collections do not legally belong to the Museum. Although accessioned into the Museum's permanent collections, they may be more accurately considered to be held-in-trust for the federal government.

Consultation with officials at the Daniel Boone National Forest determined that it is their desire to have archaeological materials from their federal lands curated at the University of Kentucky, where they will be readily accessible to local researchers. The University of Kentucky has agreed to receive the materials and has the storage and standards to appropriately curate the materials and make them accessible to researchers.

The University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology intends to deaccession and return the two collections of botanical materials, which were erroneously accessioned into their permanent collections.

Respectfully submitted



Stephen R. Forrest
Vice President for Research

May 2007