

In John White's words regarding an article written for *Ancient American* magazine on the occasion of the publication of their 100th issue:

Burrows Cave – “It was in 1991 that MES President Beverley Moseley became aware of Burrows Cave. Russell Burrows (the alleged discoverer in 1982), and the wonderful Ptolemaic-type images carved on the so-called BC stones. Expertise was in very short supply. Mr. Burrows was shrewd and wily and not inclined to make friends. The provenance for the cave was amateurish, and some of the discovery answers were very questionable. Burrows appeared to be a country storyteller!

His first attempt to rely on professional advice had failed with both Barry Fell and George Carter making negative statements. Joe Mahan and Cyclone Covey were the serious optimists.

Harry Hubbard introduced some rather farfetched interpretations.

Finally, Bev Moseley started a new era by finding some buyers for the BC artifacts and at higher prices. Burrows was happy to oblige!

Then Fred Rydholm and Jim Scherz hurried to finish BC books with Burrows. I visited Rydholm at his home in Marquette, MI and heard his view of the story. These actions prompted formation of a second advisory group called BCC, and I became the VP for communications. In early 1993 we learned that the Burrows-Rydholm book, *The Mystery Cave of Many Faces* had gone to the publisher.

It was time for the MES to make a contribution! Bev arranged for a special meeting to be held in Columbus, Ohio on June 21st with a great

deal of advertising. Martha Otto, head archaeologist of the Ohio Historical Society, attended and asked some good questions.

BCC had several meetings with no serious results. The underlying hope of such groups is to locate serious financial backing, so that the advisors can be paid for their time contributed. There was even talk about a BC Museum and Interpretive Center.

I was quite unpopular for suggesting they were getting ahead of themselves. The obvious opportunity for promotion existed because the *Ancient American* leadership attended these Midwest meetings to see if any breaking news was available.

It was clear to anyone in the diffusionist history camp that Burrows Cave, the Michigan Plates, and the Lake Superior ancient copper mining were the best archaeological projects available in North America.

I finally committed to writing an article for *Ancient American* on Burrows Cave, since it appeared that I had examined more of the stones than anyone else. My original idea was to assert that facts related to Burrows Cave were going to be more important than opinions and character assassinations.

I finally completed the article *John J. White, III and Beverley H. Moseley, Jr., Men of Tyre in Ancient Illinois and Other Worldwide Destinations*, 12p (1993), which was published as ***Burrows Cave: Fraud or Find of the Century?***, *The Ancient American* 12, 4-15 (1993).

I was shocked at the title change, which implied that I might be involved with a fraud, when, in fact, the fraud claimers had no data and at best implied that their **opinions** represented the truth!

I will admit that the initial article was quite unsatisfactory to me. The biggest problem was a decision by Mr. Burrows to withhold certain topics from me in the early days.

And now after 20 additional years we can observe that the interpreters have made a little progress, and the critics continue to babble. I look back with admiration to the convictions of my colleague Bev Moseley, who had unwavering trust in the truth of the Burrows Cave artifacts. There appear to have been a few problems, but it has gone nowhere. In any event I wish to thank *The Ancient American* for its decision to allow Burrows Cave to see the light of day.”

(John J. White, III, - 1993)