

DULUTH -- The grandson of a Frenchman who helped survey parts of northern Minnesota in the mid-1860s has provided UMD with its first collection of artifacts from African pre-history.

The donor and "amateur" archeologist and anthropologist is Captain Jean Cornelius, a recent caller at Duluth as master of the ocean-going vessel Francoise L-D out of Dunkirk, France.

The specimens, ranging from small pieces of flint blades to stone hand axes, are from 8,000 to 100,000 years old.

The collection is currently on display in the first floor corridor of the Science and Mathematics building opposite the Division of Science and Mathematics office.

Dr. Charles E. Carson of the UMD geology department arranged the display. He termed the artifacts "excellent specimens" and indicated that Captain Cornelius, although self-taught, was more a professional than an amateur anthropologist.

Captain Cornelius uncovered the specimens in 1963 in Mauretania (west coast of Africa) during the construction of an iron ore mining plant near Port Goureaud and the building of a railroad linking the town of Tazadit to Port Etienne.

The knowledge of his grandfather's 1880 experiences with a geodetic survey team had kindled an interest in Minnesota. When his ship was laid up in Duluth last summer by the 40-day dockworker's strike, he decided to look up someone in anthropology.

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He was introduced to Dr. A. Neil Pearson, professor and head of the UMD sociology department. After a tour of the campus and visits with Provost R. W. Darland and Dr. William A. Rosenthal, professor and head of English, he asked whether UMD would be interested in some of his artifacts.

Captain Cornelius forwarded the specimens when he returned home to Nice and the display was ready when he returned to Duluth early this month (July).

Some of the more interesting specimens are a stone drill, sandstone borers, clay weights thought to be used in primitive weaving operations and pierced seashells most likely used as ornaments.

Captain Cornelius said his interest in anthropology evolved from his study of the history of navigation and the first navigators. He belongs to a society in Nice dedicated to investigating pre-history of Europe and Africa.