The vase in the top photo is part of the extensive Tunica-Biloxi tribe grave goods unearthed in 1968 and is being housed at the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans. A legal battle has waged for years over ownership of the goods, which is shown in the photo on the right.

**Tunica Treasure**

The Tunica tribe have been arguing over the ownership of grave goods discovered by Jean-Paul Charrier in 1974. Charrier, a professional treasure hunter, claimed to have obtained permission from the Tunica tribe to excavate the site, but the tribe dispute this. The goods, which include copper jewelry, glass beads, and pottery, were buried with tribe members and were considered important to tribal history.

Charrier displayed some of the treasures he discovered in 1974, and in 1979 he claimed to have obtained permission from the Tunica tribe to excavate the site. However, the Tunica tribe claim that they were not informed and that the goods belong to the tribe.

In 1982, against the wishes of Charrier, the artifacts were sent from Harvard to the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans. The Tunica tribe joined in the litigation in 1982, and the case was heard by the 1st Circuit Court of Appeal in New Orleans.

The judge could render any judgment he chooses, and the issue is still under review.

The Tunica tribe claim that the artifacts should be returned to them, but Charrier argues that they belong to the state. The case is still under review.

**Leonard Charrier displays some of the treasures he discovered.**

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**In Memoranda**

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**Tunica Treasure still in limbo**

By ANNELENE DUOPEN

After 30 years of legal battles, professional treasure hunter Jean-Paul Charrier still is involved in litigation with the state and tribal ancestors to gain final custody of the grave goods, which he has been studying and creating the "Tunica Treasure" reference file.

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**The Tunica Treasure**

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