

AMERICAN ANTIQUITY

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EDITORIALS

WITH the turn of another year the Society for American Archaeology elects new officers. Our President, W. C. McKern, needs no introduction; as our first Editor he established AMERICAN ANTIQUITY on a high plane, and set it up as a going concern. This work, carried on in addition to his manifold duties as Curator of Anthropology of the Milwaukee Public Museum, has earned him a lasting place in the ranks of the Society. Charles Amsden, of the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, succeeds to the Vice-Presidency. As a diligent worker in the southwestern field he is known to many of us. Thorne Deuel, Director of the Illinois State Museum, takes office as our new Secretary-Treasurer.

To each of these men we offer our hearty congratulations, and assure them of our willing cooperation. Whenever they wish it, space in these pages is open to them. Our President has consented to say a few words in this issue, we will look forward to hearing from our other officers in later numbers.

Carl Guthe has at last been permitted to lay the Secretary's pen down, and to pass on the purse-strings. Perhaps more than any one man he is responsible for the creation of our Society. Through years of service as the Chairman of the Committee on State Archaeological Surveys of the National Research Council he felt the need for an archaeological society. If he is not the father of the Society, he is its god-father. No mere words can express our indebtedness to his unfailing devotion and unflagging interest. Few people know the load that he has carried as Secretary-Treasurer. None will begrudge him his well-earned rest. To him, as well as to the other retiring officers go our sincere thanks and best wishes for the future.

INVENTORY—With the completion of the fifth year of the Society for American Archaeology, and the fifth volume of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY, the general membership may conclude that all major

problems confronting the organization are solved; the time of need for vigorous, concerted effort and careful vigilance past; the goal attained; the battle won. If there are those whose wishful thinking tempts them to harbor such an illusion, it is high time to take stock of the past accomplishments and present status of the Society and its journal in the light of its stated aims and existing needs.

In support of the general program to advance archaeological accomplishment in America, and to serve as an agency for a wider distribution of accurate archaeological information to all interested laymen, the Society from its first inception undertook to sponsor a mutually profitable collaboration between all sincere students of American archaeology whether of professional or amateur status. In fact, this was its major objective. There had developed an unfortunate amount of suspicion and bad feeling between the professional group and various non-professional elements, particularly that group interested in making private collections of archaeological materials. This feeling of mistrust, often intolerance, was founded upon a minimum of fact and a maximum of misunderstanding. It became the initial purpose of the Society to work understandingly toward further decreasing the undesirable fact and eliminating the misunderstanding.

We have been particularly fortunate in the sane, constructive policies selected and developed by our Council, under the very active leadership of our veteran Secretary-Treasurer, Carl Guthe. His has been a laborious, thankless job exceedingly well done. As a result, there is indisputable evidence that progress has been made toward attaining this major objective. Instances can be cited of students who formerly were working at cross-purposes and who now are pulling together toward a mutually recognized objective. Students who have made unfortunate mistakes in the past, due to a failure on the part of more experienced students to offer pertinent information and friendly coöperation, are making fewer mistakes as the result of sincere efforts to place at their disposal the purposes and procedure of improved methods. Professionals who formerly struggled along alone, attempting with the aid of but two eyes to obtain a comprehension of widely scattered phenomena requiring the keen observation of many eyes in many places, are now enjoying a much broader knowledge of their chosen fields as a result of the assistance or inspiration of non-professionals.

However, the struggle to install intelligent coöperation in place of emotional mistrust and destructive competition has just begun. We should take full advantage of these initial successes to strengthen our

position toward continued progress. There are still sincere and intelligent students who believe in warfare rather than peace as a means toward accomplishment.

An important function of the Society has been that of placing at the disposal of students a new medium for the publishing of matter relating to American archaeology. AMERICAN ANTIQUITY has not only served toward satisfying an old demand, but has boldly met the challenge of new demands which it inadvertently created. Under the capable editorship of Douglas Byers and his assistants I foresee that the journal will progressively grow in its scope of service and influence. Such results will depend entirely, however, upon the continued support of the Editor by the membership, and upon a steady increase in the membership. There are thousands of men and women in the Americas who are qualified for membership in the Society. Every member should realize that it is to his own best interests to introduce the Society to these potential members and encourage them to augment our forces.

Actually, we are just entering the most critical period in the history of the Society since that initial year of travail which saw it struggling into existence. Our magazine, regardless of increasing publication costs, must grow in order to meet the growing demands of a constantly expanding field. Moreover, it must soon face the necessity of enlarging the issue to supply an enlarged membership. We must retain the interest and support of present members while soliciting new. We must expand in size, in scope of policy and action, in depth and purity of purpose, and in true worth of accomplishment. In order to present a united front toward accomplishing these ends, we must suppress petty differences arising from purely personal irritation and jealousy. We must develop the habit of logical and judicial appraisal in the light of archaeological objectives, in place of emotional, prejudicial reactions centering about personal feelings, productive of the common "jitters." It is time for wholly adult and sincerely purposeful students to pass on beyond the unorganized, formative period when every man figuratively carries a chip on either shoulder and two "six-guns" at his belt.

W. C. McKERN, *President*