

AMERICAN ANTIQUITY

Vol. VII

JULY, 1941

No. 1

EDITORIALS

OUR NEW OFFICERS. At the Annual Meeting of the Society, Glenn A. Black was elected President, and Emil W. Haury, vice-President. Neither needs any introduction to make him known, for both have served on the Council and Mr. Black is a former vice-President. Both are busily employed: Mr. Black, as Director of Archaeology for the Indiana Historical Society, has a large mound site on his hands, while Dr. Haury has not only Ventana Cave, as reported in Notes and News, but the summer program of the University of Arizona to keep him from mischief. We will hope to hear from them in these pages at a later date.

Meanwhile we wish them every success and pledge them our loyal support.

D. S. B.

DUES ARE DUE on July 1 because our fiscal year begins each year on that date. We used to insert a blue slip inside the front cover of the July issue of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY to remind members of this fact. Many members either did not see this reminder, or they paid no attention to it. So the Secretary-Treasurer had to write them letters and ask for payment. It was often more work to send the letters than it would have been to mail out bills. This year we are leaving out that little blue slip and have mailed letters to you, enclosing your bill. We have done this because we need money if we are to survive, prices are going up, and it costs more to print AMERICAN ANTIQUITY. The journal has been increased to its maximum number of pages, and this increase in size, along with the increase in the cost of paper and printing has cost the Society six hundred dollars more than it had to pay two years ago.

Then there are always some members who decide that they want to drop out of the Society. We can't criticise them for that, but they often forget to tell the Secretary-Treasurer, so they get AMERICAN ANTIQUITY for a year as a free hand-out and don't pay for it. At the time of the Annual Meeting, there were enough back dues outstanding to pay for printing one whole number of the journal with lots of illustrations! Unless we can use every possible means of cutting expenses we may have to consider increasing dues.

This is your Society, and you can help to keep it going if you will pitch in and do your share. If you will pay your dues promptly, we can pay Society bills promptly, and we won't be running up more bills by having to write a couple of times to collect. If you will notify the Secretary-Treasurer promptly of change of address, we will be able to get AMERICAN ANTIQUITY and the NOTEBOOK to you promptly, and we won't have to pay return postage to get them back from your old addresses. If you can't pay your dues by July 1, will you write and tell us when we can expect your dues? This will ensure your being kept in good standing as a member of the Society. If you will send in the names of prospective members, whether individuals or institutions, we would be glad, for we need more members, but we can't get them without your help. If you don't want to continue as a member, just let us know; a penny postcard to the Secretary-Treasurer will do the trick, then we won't have to pay for that copy of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY that you don't want.

If you have any suggestions as to how the Society can be of more service to you or to other members, remember that the officers are elected to do your bidding, and they're always glad to hear from you and receive suggestions and ideas. Write the Editor if you don't like AMERICAN ANTIQUITY, or if you have suggestions for him, and remember that he's always glad to get papers, long or short; if you know that somebody has something that would be a worthwhile contribution get him to send it in.

Our Society can only keep going if we all pull together. Can't we count on you to help?

THORNE DEUEL
Secretary-Treasurer

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING has always been an attractive idea ever since the days when we used to look for hidden faces in puzzle pictures. We felt pretty proud of finding all the faces hidden in those picture puzzles, and thought we had earned the talking machine that was the "prize." When the bill came our parents thought differently, as we found out to our sorrow. Maybe your particular line was selling soap, our soap wouldn't float or lather; it didn't seem very good and we couldn't look our friends' mothers in the eye for days.

In those good old days when people gave things away right and left in order to get customers to come in, our museums started handing out reports on their explorations or on the state of their collections. The interested public got the free prizes for simply showing an interest— institutions had funds in those days, and it was considered only fair

that they should give away reports. And anyway, the recipient of the report always *might* be a future benefactor.

Today, to their sorrow, museums find that they started a habit that is hard to break. People still write in for free literature, but because museums are just getting by on their budgets they have no literature for free distribution. The funds that are used for publications are often revolving funds, which means that earlier issues must be sold before new numbers of a series can be brought out.

Exchange of publications among institutions is a common practice, and by it the publications of all the archaeological museums are circulated. Were it not for this practice many libraries would be bare of valuable and important monographs. In the same way authors may exchange publications with fellow workers in the field. But in neither case is this something for nothing, because the distributing person or institution gets back in kind what is sent out.

Our fellow-members in the Society for American Archaeology often write us about literature, inquiring where they can get copies of this or that publication, or sometimes asking if the "professionals" are trying to keep "the dope" away from the "amateurs" because Professor Trowel or Dr. Whiskbroom won't send copies of their reports. Many times our inquirer doesn't realize that both Professor Trowel and Dr. Whiskbroom have nothing to say about sending out their reports, and that they may be lucky to get ten or a dozen copies themselves for their friends. They aren't trying to keep publications away from anyone, they're often trying hard to get our old friend John Q. Public to buy, so another number in the series can be brought out.

Occasionally we hear that there is some "conspiracy" to keep knowledge away from the amateurs because Universities and Museums won't send lists of publications that writers may have requested. Failure to answer such requests may be due to a blunder on the part of a clerk, for most institutions will send out their lists of publications at the drop of a hat. Yet there are lots of people who still think it's some sort of a joke to write and get lists of publications from as many places as they can. Occasionally we meet people who collect things like that along with Pullman towels and hotel silver. Maybe these "wise guys" have queered things for the rest of us. We hope there isn't much doubt about the sincerity of most inquiries left in the minds of those who direct the policies of our institutions. The average request for publications is a bona fide order. While we are sure that the public at large recognizes the tremendous expense involved in publishing archaeological literature, there probably are still a number of people who do not. It is only fair to ask in the interest of the genuinely earnest student that he be not

judged by the wise guys and that he be treated courteously. As soon as the general public realizes that there can't be any more free hand-outs and the institutions realize the sincerity of people in search for knowledge, this remaining source of friction will cease to exist.

D. S. B.