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EDITORIALS

THE FIRST MILESTONE . . . With this issue *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY* completes its first volume and its first actual year as your journal. This means that our basic financial worries are practically over, providing all present members of the Society re-subscribe to membership with reasonable promptitude. It has been an up-hill fight all the way, but with a worthy object in view, and with the fine support of fellow officers and affiliates in the Society, for which I in particular am deeply grateful, it has seemed a worth-while battle. If the journal reflects some measure of success, your Secretary-Treasurer and the assistant editors are responsible to no slight extent.

We confidently expect that Volume II will show a marked improvement over Volume I. The first issues of a new, unknown journal are very apt to show imperfections which experience and the development of a spontaneous support will tend largely to eradicate in later issues. All indications point to a larger and better journal. If this anticipated improvement does not materialize, I should advise you by all means to acquire the services of a new editor.

OUR NEW OFFICERS . . . The new fiscal year brings us the regular change in officers, and we welcome with all good wishes and a pledge of support our new executives, President Diamond Jenness and Vice-President Harold S. Gladwin. It is with shameless alacrity that I relinquish to their use the major portion of this editorial division.

THE CANADIAN FIELD . . . The heavy hand of precedent demands that, like the last president of our Society, Dr. Parker, I should pen a few lines for the journal. For me it is not an easy task, because my duties at the National Museum of Canada have forced me to direct most of my energies to ethnological problems rather than to archaeolog-

ical ones. The number of trained archaeologists in Canada may be counted on the fingers of one hand. If then I venture to outline a few of our problems as they present themselves to me today, it is with the hope that some of my readers will forget all international boundary lines and will turn their feet northward to help us solve them. I can assure them that Canada is a very pleasant country in which to spend a summer, provided they avoid a few forested or tundrous localities whose primeval inhabitants, the mosquitoes, naturally resent any human intrusion.

In eastern Canada Mr. W. J. Wintemberg, of our National Museum staff, is gradually unravelling the development of the intrusive Iroquoian cultures and separating them out from the contemporary Algonkian. Neither he nor anyone else, however, has yet discovered a pre-pottery site in the St. Lawrence basin rich enough to disclose the outlines of the culture phase that preceded all recognizable influences filtering in from the Ohio basin. Somewhere or other, underlying, we hope, an Iroquoian site which will certify to the time sequence, there must be remains of inhabitants earlier than those of whom we as yet have records. We presume that they spoke the Algonkian language. Can it be that the present-day Micmac Indians of the maritime provinces are their descendants, as R. B. Dixon thought? What, again, are we to think of the now extinct Beothuk Indians of Newfoundland? It is generally believed that they did not occupy that island for any long period, but migrated thither from Nova Scotia. Yet in that province we have found no remains that we can ascribe to them, no remains at all, indeed, that with certainty precede its habitation by the Micmac.

On the plains we have accomplished still less. We have found numberless celts, arrowheads, hammer-stones, fragments of pottery and other objects, but nothing that seems older than 300 to 400 years, or that indicates any earlier phase of culture than that which reigned at the first impact of European civilization. In British Columbia, again, the scratchings of the last forty years have added little or nothing to what we already knew from the researches of Harlan I. Smith in the Nineties of the last century, published in the Jesup Expedition reports. Yet there is no dearth of archaeological sites; several are known in the interior of the province, and along the coastline there are literally hundreds of shell-heaps varying in depth from a few inches to nine or ten feet, and in length from a few yards to nearly a mile. Many are buried beneath a heavy growth of forest; others are being rapidly destroyed by winter storms. The worker in this field will require considerable funds

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Room 4017, Museums Building
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and a combination of patience with good luck to make any effective contribution to our knowledge; but no one can doubt the wealth of material that lies buried along this coast, or the likelihood of important differences between the north and south that will illuminate its past history.

The archaeological specimens recovered from the Mackenzie River basin scarcely exceed a score in number, and tell us no more than we can gather from the accounts of the earliest explorers. Here is indeed a most difficult country to work in, though the future may see discoveries around the shores of Lakes Athabasca and Great Slave, possibly along the old beach lines that mark their earlier levels. During the last twenty years, however, we have gained a new vista into Eskimo prehistory, mainly through the splendid researches of Therkel Mathiassen in Canada and Greenland, and of H. B. Collins in Alaska. Canada undoubtedly holds the secret of the mysterious Dorset culture, perhaps, too, of the Thule that swept across the Arctic from Alaska to Greenland many hundreds of years ago. In this region, too, there is no lack of splendid sites awaiting investigation; for though unscientific traders, and Eskimo inspired by them, have ransacked a certain number of sites, the Canadian government has strictly forbidden any further excavations without a special permit, and it restricts the issuance of such permits to competent archaeologists accredited by some recognized institution.

Eskimo ruins, and the shell-heaps on the British Columbia coast, may possibly carry us back into the second half of the first millenium A.D.; but nowhere else have we discovered as yet any remains that seem older than a very few hundred years. If we believe, with nearly all anthropologists, that the New World was peopled from the Old by way of Alaska and Canada, then somewhere or other there must surely be traces of far earlier remains. No one has searched the old shore lines of the postglacial Lake Agassiz, or the raised beaches around the great lakes in the Mackenzie River region; and of the low basin at the heads of the upper Yukon and Liard rivers, where the Rocky Mountains die away and migrant bands could pass without difficulty from one watershed to the other, we were ignorant until a few months ago. Canada, unlike the United States, is sparsely settled, and large areas remain seldom trodden by the foot of man. Yet the archaeology of the one country is inseparably linked with that of the other. May we not then advise some of our younger and more adventurous field workers to follow the old and time-worn adage, "Go north, young man, go north"?

DIAMOND JENNESS, *President*

METHODOLOGY IN THE SOUTHWEST . . . It has been said that a new physical type, *Homo americanus*, is evolving out of the various peoples who have made their home in the New World. This is, of course, a matter for the physical anthropologists to decide, but, as archaeologists, it is fitting for us to try to find the cultural characteristics which distinguish such a type. It seems to me that one of the outstanding traits of the species *americanus* is his addiction to filing systems, card catalogues, coloured labels and pins, and the great range of devices which help us to put everything in its place, and have a place for everything. There are probably no other people in the world today who have developed methods of classification to the same degree as have modern Americans, and it is perfectly natural that some of these methods should have crept from business into the sciences.

As a consequence, our fauna and flora, our libraries, and our golf clubs are all neatly tagged with a number, a name, or a label, and the innate yearning of the stamp collector, which is in all of us, can be assuaged by placing the 2 between the 1 and the 3, and our sense of the fitness of things is satisfied.

In recent years, this obsession for method has entered into archaeology, particularly into that of the Southwest, and, in some respects, I have been partly responsible. In about 1928 and 1929, three institutions were founded in the Southwest: the Laboratory of Anthropology, the Museum of Northern Arizona, and Gila Pueblo. Each one of these institutions began a type of investigation which had not theretofore been emphasized, archaeological surveys in which as many sites as possible were visited, surface indications were described, and collections made of sherds and flints, without excavation.

It became immediately apparent that it would be essential to agree on a method of naming and describing what was being found during the course of these surveys, so, at Pecos in 1929, and again at Gila Pueblo in 1930, conversations were held with various interested persons and methods were discussed. As a result, in the summer of 1930, we published *A Method for the Designation of Southwestern Pottery Types* (Medallion Papers VII; W. & H. S. Gladwin, Globe, 1930), in which we proposed a binominal system of naming various pottery types, the main idea being a generic name based on colour, such as black-on-white, and a specific name based on some geographical feature, such as Tularosa. By this means we would avoid any chronological or cultural connotation such as is implied in such terms as pre-Pueblo Black-on-white, or Caddoan Redware.

For several years this method has worked fairly well; most men in the Southwest knew what we were talking about when we mentioned a ruin containing St. Johns Polychrome or Tularosa Black-on-white. Sometimes we found that a large series of ruins, as in the Upper San Francisco Valley, contained Tularosa Black-on-white to the exclusion of St. Johns Polychrome, whereas larger ruins, farther north around the town of St. Johns, contained a smaller amount of Tularosa wares and a great deal of St. Johns Polychrome. It was a logical step for us to begin speaking of a Tularosa *Phase* and a St. Johns *Phase*.

As time went on, a number of such Phases began to form. Then dates were established from tree-rings; a chronological perspective began to form, and, as our surveys covered more and more ground, certain Phases disclosed relationships through common features of pottery designs, architecture, and so on, and the Phases grouped themselves into *Branches*. These Branches, in turn, resolved themselves into *Stems*, so that we had a fairly comprehensive archaeological tree which covered a good deal of territory, and covered the evolution of the Southwest from Basketmaker times up to the present day. Recognizing that our modern tribes are made up of several linguistic stocks, Keresan, Tanoan, and others, it was again rather a logical step for us to employ a little speculation and try to fit these modern features into our picture and see how well such things as physical types, linguistic stocks, material culture, and chronology could be combined to make an intelligible theory.

The result was the publication, in 1934, of *A Method for the Designation of Cultures and their Variations* (Medallion Papers XV; W. & H. S. Gladwin, Globe, 1934). This paper came out at about the same time as the McKern classification, and it is a very remarkable fact that the two methods are almost identical except for the terms employed. There is probably a little more emphasis on chronology in our Phase system than in the McKern method, but this is only because we have had the advantage of tree-ring dating in the Southwest. We have also indulged in a little more speculation in our Roots, possibly more than is justified, but this may be attributed to an over-developed desire on our part to have everything accounted for. Other than this, the methods agree:

*McKern**Gladwin*

Basic Culture (Fundamental determinants)	= Root	(Physical Type; Language Stock)
Phase (Important cultural limitations)	= Stem	(Major cultural and geographical divisions)

Aspect (Characterized by more specific traits)	= Branch (Corresponding in importance to Kidder's culture areas)
Focus (Exhibiting peculiarities in cultural detail)	= Phase (covering consistent variations in culture)
Component (A specified manifestation)	= Components have been listed in our Phases, but not named as such. This designation will be added in our next revised edition.

Up to this point there is not much to quarrel about; the method has been put to a severe test in our excavations at Snaketown and came through with flying colours. Every feature at the site has been fitted into its Phase, and our analysis of early Hohokam culture has been made infinitely easier because of the system.

But now men are beginning to ask: "How much further are you going in this business of naming things"? Speaking only for ourselves, I think we have gone almost far enough in those cultures of the Southwest which are more or less familiar to most field workers. There will undoubtedly be a few more Phases needed to fill existing gaps, and possibly one or two more Branches, but the end is now more important than the means. If the classification were carried much beyond this point, I should expect to run into a confusion of tongues.

My original suggestion in Medallion VII of using a generic and a specific name for pottery types implied a biological analogy which I now think was a mistake. The idea is being carried too far along biological or zoological lines, and men do not realize the profound differences which exist between zoological species and the things which have been made by men and women.

Zoological species do not cross and intergrade; evolution is so slow as to be hardly distinguishable. The evolution of culture, particularly in the Southwest, was stepped up to almost incredible speed, and on every side we find evidence of merging and cross-influences. The analogy is closer to the barnyard than to zoological species, and the danger is just as great in archaeology of defining new types which some individual may believe to be distinct as it would be to expect that some types of domesticated animals will breed true. We are really dealing with varieties rather than species, and, in consequence, there are bound to be a great many intermediate and transitional types.

If new types shall be created on insufficient evidence, particularly on sherds only, it will be just as if one should find the green tail-feathers of a Brown Leghorn rooster and announce "Ah! a Green Orpington!",

give it an A.O.U. number, and add one's name in brackets as the discoverer of a new species.

Besides the confusion which must inevitably result from an over-indulgence in classification ("Taxonomic Measles", according to Dr. Kidder), there is the difficulty of adequately describing types so that other persons will know what is meant. In the five series of Southwestern pottery types which we have published up to date we have confined ourselves to naming various pottery types which we have believed were distinguishable from one another. To the best of my knowledge there has been no confusion between any two of these types, but recently others have defined and described variations of these types, and actual experience has demonstrated that it is practically impossible to describe such variations in words which avoid confusion.

Several suggestions have been made which have been designed to solve this problem; presence or kind of slip, of tempering material, or of characteristic cross sections. It is probable that such criteria could be determined by petrographic analysis, and used to good advantage, but this requires a thoroughly trained technician and, as the application of petrographic methods to the analysis of pottery is a new technique, it is very difficult to obtain such training in most universities. In addition, this kind of analysis involves considerable expense in the grinding and preparation of thin cross-sections (3/100 mm.). For the average field man such analysis is out of the question, and yet Miss Anna Shepard has shown that these criteria are of little value unless they have been determined by petrographic analysis.

I do not wish to give the impression that I am trying to tell anyone else how his work should be done. At Gila Pueblo we have inaugurated certain methods; some of these have proved to be successful; after giving them a thorough trial, we have published them so that others could take advantage of them if they wished to do so. As far as we are concerned, we have reached the point where we think it is better to strengthen what has been done by more intensive study than to name new variations of pottery or phases which may tend to confuse rather than clarify our minds. This does not mean that finer distinctions will not be made as knowledge increases, nor that such distinctions would not warrant publication when they could be shown to indicate cultural or chronological relationship. It does mean that no method is as important as the result which it is designed to achieve, and that it is possible to defeat both the purpose and the method by too great elaboration of non-essential details.

HAROLD S. GLADWIN, *Vice-President*

A NEW VOICE . . . *The Kiva*, a new archaeological publication for the Southwestern area, made its bow to the students of that field with five numbers of Volume I, issued in May, October, November and December, 1935, and January, 1936. It is published by the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society with headquarters at the Arizona State Museum, Tucson, and is edited by the Rev. Victor R. Stoner. AMERICAN ANTIQUITY welcomes this new voice in the Southwest to the ranks of American archaeological publications.