

AMERICAN ANTIQUITY

VOL. IX

JULY, 1943

No. 1

EDITORIAL

THIS number of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY is devoted solely to articles concerning countries south of the Rio Grande. These articles have been contributed by archaeologists from a number of the American countries.

With this number, AMERICAN ANTIQUITY first goes to several of our sister republics under an exchange arrangement proposed by the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies. It seems most appropriate that the first number to be exchanged with institutions in Latin America should contain articles of interest to the people of these countries.

As this issue appears, the Third Round Table Conference of the Mexican Society for Anthropology will be convening in Mexico City. The subject of this conference, Connections between Middle America and the United States should provoke interesting discussions, and, we hope, papers that should be of extreme interest to us all.

There can be little doubt of the fundamental unity of primitive American culture. Trade over wide distances has been proved in a number of cases. That ideas and concepts accompanied these commodities in trade must have been as true in the days before Columbus first trod this continent as it is at the present time. There are some elements in the culture patterns of the United States and Canada which may seem far removed from the more involved patterns of the Middle and South American areas; upon closer examination it will be found that many of these traits appear as second or third hand reflections of traits highly developed in the centers of higher cultures. Too much has been learned in recent years to permit us to picture our aborigines as rock-ribbed isolationists.