

AMERICAN ANTIQUITY

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EDITORIALS

A NEW YEAR brings with it new officers for the Society as well as a new volume of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY. It is a year particularly critical in the life of the journal for it passes into new hands. To Mr. McKern who has prescribed the formula that has brought the baby through the trying years of infancy is due not only credit, but also the heart-felt thanks of the Society. As a new Editor attempts timorously to take over his duties he realizes only too well the debt that the Society owes its first Editor who founded its editorial policies. Mr. McKern has made of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY a journal that is above all readable; while keeping the pages open to all who wish to contribute he has maintained a standard for contributions that holds the journal high in the rank of scientific publications. To follow his precepts will be a difficult task, but it will be made vastly more simple by a continuation of the fine cooperation that has helped in the building of our journal.

AMERICAN ANTIQUITY need not always be as small as the present number. Ample manuscript material is on hand. If every member were to secure one new member our difficulty would be solved.

In making his bow the new Editor has the great pleasure of presenting to the Society our new President, Mr. Neil M. Judd, Curator of Archaeology of the United States National Museum. In a later number we hope to hear from Mr. Glenn A. Black of the Indiana Historical Society, our new Vice-President. Our long-suffering Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Carl E. Guthe, has consented to hold his position for another term. His is an exacting and a time consuming job, yet he has given freely of his time.

On behalf of the Society we congratulate these gentlemen on their election and promise them cooperation to the limit of our ability.

(D. S. B.)

A COMMON EFFORT. A new year begins for AMERICAN ANTIQUITY with this, the first number of Volume V. The Society for American Archaeology, which sponsors the journal, celebrated its anniversary

early in May. At that time new officers were elected for the year ensuing but the Society, like the journal, will continue with little outward change.

It is well that leadership be superseded at regular intervals. Ours is a democratic organization, thriving in a democratic country. Our officers represent us for a time; they are our chosen spokesmen. They have nothing to sell; no dogmas to force upon us. They are selected from among the membership and return to that level when their term of office ends.

During the past four years the Society for American Archaeology has been singularly fortunate in its choice of leaders. There have been four presidents, four vice-presidents. But throughout those four years Dr. Guthe has continued to serve as secretary-treasurer; Mr. McKern has remained at the editor's desk. To these latter two belong the major credit for the success of the Society and its journal. Theirs has been the hard work. Chiefly through their efforts and their devotion to our common cause, the Society's membership has risen from 344 to 783; the journal's pages have been increased by 18 per cent. We do not need to remind these two how completely the Society appreciates their endeavors since the esteem in which both are generally held is ample evidence.

Happily, Dr. Guthe retains the secretaryship for another year while Mr. McKern, deserving of a well-earned rest from blue pencils and galley sheets, relinquishes the editorship to the capable hands of Mr. Byers. The latter is challenged to see that the high standard of editorial work found in the first four volumes is maintained and the membership at large is challenged to see that there is no decrease, either in quality or diversity of subject matter, in those articles submitted for publication. Our editor gives generously of hours he would otherwise devote to his own researches; he merits, and I am sure will receive, the loyal support of his fellow members.

The Society is composed of those professionally engaged in archaeology and those who have adopted the science as an avocation. But we are all students together; each may learn from the other. With a common cause our united efforts should place the Society for American Archaeology on a higher plane than it has occupied heretofore, and as the Society rises in usefulness so shall AMERICAN ANTIQUITY win a larger audience among those interested in the prehistory of the Americas.

Neil M. Judd, *President*

CONGRATULATIONS—With this number a new Editor assumes the duties and responsibilities of directing the publication of this journal. He has been carefully and wisely selected by your representatives at the last annual meeting of the Society. Those of us who are familiar with Douglas S. Byers' work and ideas are pleased and impressed by his well rounded qualifications to successfully guide *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY* toward higher standards and greater service to American archaeology.

However, he has undertaken a task which can not be successfully performed by one man. The degree of his success will necessarily depend upon the degree of support and cooperation which he will receive from the other officers of the Society, from the contributors to the journal, and from the membership of the Society in general. The journal will function to your advantage in direct ratio to your active disposition to be constructively helpful. During the past four years, the Society has demonstrated its collective will and ability to respond quickly and intelligently to its Editor's calls for aid, and has lent generous support to his experimental policies and projects. Your retiring Editor wishes to express the urgent hope that this will continue to an ever increasing extent to be your active attitude.

Mr. Byers is to be congratulated upon the confidence in him expressed by the Society in selecting him to command its official voice, and the Society is equally to be congratulated in its propitious choice. Given our full cooperation, *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*, in the capable hands of its new Editor, will improve in scientific status and service to all sincere students in the American field.

W. C. M.