

# AMERICAN ANTIQUITY

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## EDITORIALS

**ACCURACY IN RESEARCH . . .** Man is an opinionated animal to whom there comes repeatedly the irresistible urge to express his ideas regarding a given subject of interest. The urge reflects a degree of intelligence, but the opinions may or may not corroborate this reflection; for opinions may result from a careful investigation and logical ordering of facts, or they may result from impressions that are not based upon proper investigation or logic.

Many who are sincerely disposed to be students of a subject, but who have not had sufficient opportunity to acquire information on the correct methods for study, are guilty of selecting evidence, the use of poor logic, and of various faulty omissions and commissions that serve to render practically valueless the product of their labors. Not infrequently reports are printed which include statements the absurdity of which is at once apparent to the qualified student of the subject. Such statements are subversive to the best interests of the pursuit of knowledge, and reflect anything but credit upon their authors. No one would knowingly be responsible for them.

The study of a subject such as archaeology can become profitable to the student and contributive to the development of the science only when directed by a correct scientific attitude and when employing correct scientific methods. These are available only as the result of training, whether that training be acquired scholastically or as the result of independent application to library, field and laboratory sources. The trained man gets results in archaeology just as truly as in any other branch of human activity.

It follows that every student of archaeology, no matter how experienced or inexperienced, will be continuously driven by his interest in the subject to improve his knowledge thereof and his ability to profitably participate in related investigations. The careful, critical inquiry into the facts or principles of a subject, for the purpose of augmenting

the store of available information, is known to science as "research." Only those statements based upon critical research under the directions of trained minds are worthy of recording and disseminating. All reports and theses are critically judged by fellow students on this basis, and the sincere student is his own most severe critic.

W.C.M.

**ETHNOS** . . . A new *Ethnos* has entered the lists of anthropological periodicals, published bimonthly by the Ethnographical Museum of Sweden, Stockholm, in collaboration with Thule, Ltd., Publishers, and capably edited by Prof. A. Lindblom and Dr. S. Linné. To quote an editorial note in the first issue (Jan., 1936):

"*Ethnos* will devote itself primarily to Extra-European ethnology and archaeology. . . . Attention will also be paid to general questions of principle within the sphere of ethnology.

"The Journal is intended to be an organ of the Ethnographical Museum of Sweden and to be published for those Swedish anthropologists (in the widest sense of the word) who are working in the fields of research outside Europe. At the same time, however, the intention is—as will already be evident from the present number—that it shall be international in scope, and the publishers will therefore gladly welcome as collaborators any foreign research students irrespective of the anthropological 'school' to which they belong."

The journal, limited to 16 pages to the issue, is excellently presented, neatly printed on good paper and amply and well illustrated. The languages used are principally English, French and German. American archaeology and ethnology will hold a relatively important place in the subject matter presented.

The first two issues of *Ethnos* demonstrate not only that it deserves the support of American anthropological students, but that, in providing another of the too rare sources for the close coöperation of American and European anthropologists, it promises to render an important service in its chosen field of interest.

AMERICAN ANTIQUITY congratulates the editors of *Ethnos* upon the high quality manifested in the first two numbers of Volume I, and expresses the sincere hope that the new journal will meet with the success it deserves.

W.C.M.

**A CENTRAL TEXAS PUBLICATION** . . . This spring the second Bulletin of the Central Texas Archeological Society of Waco, Texas was published in March. The first bulletin had appeared in the early spring

of 1935. These two attractive pamphlets reflect the untiring interest and activity of a rapidly growing Society in studying the history of the Indians who once lived in the vicinity of Waco. The first bulletin, of 32 pages, carries several articles describing the conditions of the region and the kinds of archaeological specimens obtained. The second bulletin, which bears the sub-title "Texas Centennial Issue," is a more pretentious volume of 96 pages. About one half of the issue is devoted to a series of articles dealing with finds made in Bell County, Texas, and particularly with material from a prehistoric shelter on Kell Branch. The 31 burials with their accompanying materials are discussed in some detail. The issue includes other articles on stone implements, pottery, and local surveys of interest to those studying this region.

This group of admittedly non-professional students is making a real effort to interpret the Indian history of its neighborhood. Perhaps a disproportionate emphasis is still being placed on the collection of specimens, but as the archaeological problems become more defined the value of archaeological associations in interpreting cultural relationships will become clearer. The articles which have so far appeared indicate that the group appreciates the value of geological relationships and proper field methods.

The Central Texas Archeological Society, and its editor, Frank H. Watt, of Waco, are to be congratulated upon this attractive and informative annual bulletin.

C.E.G.

**SOUTHWESTERN LORE** . . . In June of this year, the small magazine *Southwestern Lore* entered upon its second volume. It is the quarterly official publication of the Colorado Archaeological Society. Each of the 24-page issues which have so far appeared carries a series of articles on a variety of subjects, some by local Colorado non-professional students, others by such well-known students as Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., E. B. Renaud, Lyndon L. Hargrave and Paul R. Franke. As one might expect, in the light of recent finds in that region, considerable attention is given to the problem of the antiquity of man in America.

The Society of which *Southwestern Lore* is the official publication is primarily interested in the archaeological problems within the state of Colorado. It seeks to reach all students of the subject. By establishing chapters in thirty-five Colorado cities, the Society has grown quickly, and is potentially able to exert great influence in encouraging proper

archaeological investigations and in eliminating as far as possible the destruction of evidence through ignorance of the problems involved. *Southwestern Lore* is an interesting magazine. Its editor is C. T. Hurst, Professor of Zoology and Dean of the Graduate School at Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado.

C.E.G.