

STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY.*

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Introductory to the accompanying proposals for the establishment of archaeological surveys in the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri, it may be stated that the National Research Council is a cooperative body of scientific men associated in an organization in which the leading scientific societies of the United States are represented by voting members, elected annually. The Council operates under the charter of the National Academy of Sciences and maintains permanent offices in Washington. The function of the Council is not to engage in research on its own account but "to promote cooperation in research, at home and abroad, in order to secure concentration of effort, minimize duplication, and stimulate progress; but in all cooperative undertakings to give encouragement in individual initiative, as fundamentally important to the advancement of science."

One of the Divisions of the Council is charged with the problems that arise concerning the different races of men, past and present. Under this head fall such problems as the archaeology of the several States in the United States. It being the belief of anthropologists connected with the Council that the institution of State Archaeological Surveys is timely and that the results of such surveys would greatly advance archaeological knowledge, the Council offers to cooperate with the citizens of the several States and assist them, as it may, in organizing and promoting such service. It is in this spirit that the accompanying proposal is made.

*Read before the Academy of Science by Amos W. Butler.

PROPOSED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE STATES OF ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA AND MISSOURI.

1. *Purpose.*

An intensive study of the prehistoric population of the Mississippi Valley.

The initial approach to this problem is an archaeological survey of the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Missouri, with a view to determining the different types of the remains of the prehistoric population, together with their distribution, so that it may be possible to publish an Archaeological Atlas for each state, comparable with that issued for the State of Ohio. On the conclusion of the Survey it would be desirable to excavate, at least partially, two or three type sites in each state, to confirm conclusions as to cultural affiliations and chronological sequence derived from the data of the Survey.

State Surveys have been instituted in the neighboring States of Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Those in Ohio and Wisconsin have

been long sustained with the support of strong State archaeological societies. The publications and scientific achievements of these organizations are well known. It remains now for the States mentioned above to work up their territory to give us a comprehensive view of prehistoric man in the upper Mississippi Valley.

II. *Organization.*

It is proposed (1) that the Legislature of the several States be requested to appropriate the necessary funds for the Survey and for the issuing of the State Archaeological Atlas and Report; (2) that the interest and cooperation of citizens, appropriate scientific and historical organizations within the several States be enlisted; (3) that in the absence of a more suitable agency within a given State, the Survey be organized under the Direction of the State Geological Survey; (4) that in order to secure a uniformity of results and to insure a requisite scientific standard in the work of the different State Surveys, the National Research Council will, if invited to do so, appoint a committee from its personnel to cooperate with such agencies as the State may designate, to carry out its specific survey, it being understood that such a committee is to act in an advisory capacity only.

III. *Method.*

The survey for each State is to be made by counties, all sites, mounds, etc., to be located upon the standard county maps. Descriptive data for each site or mound is to be compiled, and examinations made of all available collections of specimens in the possession of local students, farmers, etc., to list the type weapons, tools, pottery, and other artifacts, these data to be compiled in the report of the Survey.

IV. *Personnel.*

A single investigator should carry out the work for each State, but should be aided by one or more assistants. The investigator should be an archaeologist with some training and field experience. Local collectors and persons interested will be invited to participate. The salaried participants of the Survey should be employes of the State's agent, presumably the State Geologist. On all of these subjects, however, the National Research Council stands ready to act in an advisory capacity, if its advice should be requested.

V. *Reasons Why State Surveys Are Desirable.*

Your State is rich in mounds, earthworks, hill forts, etc., the remains of vanished peoples. How rich your State is in this respect, no one can say, for lack of a systematic inventory. Ohio and Wisconsin, for example, have become famous for their antiquities because they made systematic surveys and published the facts. This alone should be sufficient justification for the Survey, but there are many specific reasons why the State should provide for an inventory of its antiquities. Some of these are:

(1) The Mound Builders and other prehistoric peoples are subjects of great universal interest. They appeal particularly to farmers and owners of agricultural land who are, by reason of their daily occupation, brought

into intimate contact with archaeological remains. The educational value and the intimate culture value of correct data concerning our prehistoric population has not been fully recognized. Any efforts that will serve this almost universal interest in State antiquities will therefore contribute directly to the general well being of our Citizens.

(2) Collectors of stone implements, local and State, are numerous and by their combined activities have contributed in the past to the establishment of museums and the accumulation of knowledge. Since collectors are found in every locality, their combined constituency is worthy of some public support. Such citizens of your State as are interested in minerals and fossils are served by your State Geologist, but such individuals do not greatly exceed in number those seeking reliable information as to objects of antiquity. It seems, therefore, that the State will be fully justified in rendering this service, but it cannot intelligently meet these demands until a systematic survey of the States antiquities has been made.

(3) Such a survey is the first necessary step in the conservation and preservation of the State's antiquities. Its logical end is the establishment of State Parks in which are to be found typical mounds, hill forts, etc., and also the encouragement of State and local museums. The development of automobile travel has brought the need of State Parks which shall have in themselves some worthy intrinsic interest. The State of Ohio has shown what an asset such parks can be, for example, the Serpent Mound, Fort Ancient, etc. The Survey herein proposed is essentially to take stock and to see what the State possesses in the way of antiquities so that it may take the proper steps to preserve such of these as possess great public interest.

(4) Many States are now enacting laws on the preservation and protection of antiquities. Eventually your State will be confronted with this problem. The handling of this problem will require data from such a survey as herein proposed, for without exact knowledge of what your State possesses intelligent action cannot be taken.

