

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chairman: PAUL WEER, Indiana Historical Society

Dr. Thomas B. Noble, Jr., was elected chairman of the section for 1941.

ABSTRACTS

Section on Anthropology. PAUL WEER, Indiana Historical Society.—“Anthropology: The Study of Man,” by Amos W. Butler, (read by title), appeared in the 1894 Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science. Attaining full stature of Amos Butler’s forty-six year old prophecy, the first program of the Academy’s Section on Anthropology, under title as such, was held at the 1940 fall meeting. In the first published Proceedings of the Academy, was printed a paper by T. B. Redding, of Newcastle, on “The Pre-Historic Earthworks of Henry County, Indiana”. In the same volume two papers, read by titles, “Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Southern Ohio”, and “Methods observed in Archaeological Research”, were entered by Warren King Moorehead, distinguished pioneer in American Archaeology.

Throughout the years contributions on archaeological subjects continued to appear in most volumes of the Proceedings. A movement to organize a separate section began to make its presence felt in the early 1920’s when the Archaeological Survey Committee was organized. Butler, W. N. Logan, A. J. Bigney, C. A. Malott, E. Y. Guernsey, and others were active in the promotion of the committee’s work. The first meeting of the Section on Archaeology was held in 1935 at Wabash College, under the chairmanship of Eli Lilly. At this meeting papers were read by Mr. Lilly, Glenn A. Black, Thomas B. Noble, Jr., and Paul Weer. The next year Mr. Black became chairman. Under his leadership the section grew and developed in the broadening activities of its members. It was also at his suggestion that the section has been expanded to a Section on Anthropology.

Preliminary notes on the Archaeology of the East White River region. E. Y. GUERNSEY, Indiana Historical Society.—Along East White River and its tributaries and also along Patoka River, there have been observed abundant evidences of aboriginal occupation representing at least four culture groups of major importance. In addition there is surface evidence of still other occupations. These major occupations appear to include a primary group of midden-dwelling people of non-agricultural character, who made no pottery, had no smoking complex, and who buried their dead without ceremony within the shell middens upon which they lived in dwellings of unidentified pattern. It seems that these people were more primitive than were the midden-dwellers of Indiana Knoll, Ohio Falls, and Northern Alabama. We also observe in this region another occupation by a group almost as primitive as the midden-dwellers. They buried their dead however with more care, within low mounds of earth or sand;

these topped with slabs of limestone or sandstone. There appears to be an almost complete absence of grave goods. Contiguous to each of the stone mounds so far observed in the area there are more or less extensive village sites. At some of these the artifacts are crude including potsherds of crude cord marked pattern. At others there is displayed a more advanced culture pattern, of obvious Middle Mississippi origin, in which the pottery is shell tempered, handled or lugged, and often decorated with underlip chevron designs. Typical, also, are stone discoidals of large size and exceptional finish, very large human and animal effigy pipes (one of which is almost identical with that figured in West's Figure 2, Plate 129, as from Door County, Wisconsin).

It is possible to locate from pioneer records of Lawrence County certain camp-sites of historic Indian identity. Copper axes of Hopewell type have been found about Springville, in northwest Lawrence County. These and other typical objects suggest a contact with the occupants of Black's Worthington site.

The complex of culture manifestations suggests the importance of the region as a possible key to the determination of cultural sequences, and in particular to the scope of influence of Middle Mississippi culture upon the region of the Ohio as a whole.

On the trail of the Archaeologist. THOMAS B. NOBLE, JR., Indianapolis.—This paper dealt with observations made on a recent trip through Arch Canyon in southeastern Utah. This region, about one hundred miles from Meas Verde, represents an edge of the old Basket Maker-Pueblo culture. There are numerous ruins of both early and late type dwellings, but none are as easily differentiated as similar type ruins farther south in Arizona. The trip was made for the purpose of recording photographically some points of difference that were noted, not only in the ruins of dwellings but also in the material seen in refuse heaps. Many slides were made of characteristic material of this sort. These were shown at the meeting of the Indiana Academy, along with scenic and color slides depicting the topography and beauty of the region. A trip of a week on horseback was described, including some non-scientific observations on the comforts and discomforts met with in this sort of travel.