

SECTION ON ARCHEOLOGY

Chairman: GLENN A. BLACK, Indianapolis

The attendance at the meeting was small, and this has raised, in the minds of those interested in the section, the question of enlisting the support of many non-professional students of archeology and anthropology. It is believed that the "hunch of the amateur" may often lead to the solution of technical problems.

Of prime interest to archeologists of Indiana is the announcement that the Indiana Historical Society has, through purchase, saved from destruction the most famous archeological site in Indiana, namely, the Angel Mounds, located a few miles east of Evansville. It is planned at an early date to explore the site and to restore the mounds, as far as possible, to the condition in which they were occupied by the Indians.

Mr. Paul Weer, who is engaged in ethno-historical work for the Indiana Historical Society, was elected chairman of the section for the coming year.

ABSTRACT

The present status of archeology east of the Mississippi. GLENN A. BLACK, Indiana Historical Society.—The taxonomic method of dealing with archeological cultures has done much to clarify problems of the past. The Mississippi Pattern, with the exception of a postulated Lower Phase, is now rather well defined. The Woodlands, in the Northeast, has been defined for a period suggesting considerable antiquity. In the north central region, the pattern at present appears to apply mainly to tribes of more recent occupation levels. The third pattern, as yet unnamed, presents a far more obstinate problem. Hopewellian, its principal phase, has been and continues to be the bane of all workers in this field. Culturally suggesting a transmutation of Mississippi and Woodlands, the diagnostic traits of each are such as practically to defy relegation. Mississippi traits within the phase are neither Upper nor Middle Mississippi determinants. The Woodlands elements, with the exception of ceramics, do not seem to match too closely those traits defining the Lake Michigan Phase of Woodlands or the aspects within this phase.

As a working hypothesis the suggestion is made that (1) Hopewellian is basically Woodland with many Mississippi elements within it which are neither Upper nor Middle Mississippi; (2) the Mississippi traits within Hopewellian are, in part, diagnostic of a deep south culture group, the identity of which has not yet been made clear; (3) the Woodland traits within Hopewellian, combined with those for the Lake Michigan Phase of Woodlands, will provide a sorely needed chronology and depth for Woodlands within this area; (4) the Copena Complex as found by Webb, the Marksville of the Southeast, and investigations now being carried on in the Gulf region will go far toward solving the question of origin of many elements within the Ohio and Elemental Aspects of Hopewellian. Adena and Hopewellian are far more homogeneous than their present relative placement within the classification indicates. Adena should be considered as a direct aspect of Hopewellian rather than in a separate phase category. Adena, occurring repeatedly at components also productive of Fort Ancient, raises the query as to whether Adena-Hopewellian is late enough and Fort Ancient early enough for there to have been some slight degree of tangency between them. It should be made clear that these suggestions are yet to be tested. Concerted action, resulting from the elimination of the personal element in research, standardization of nomenclature, and systematic classification of culture traits is, however, making such suggestions acceptable to a group, whereas a few years since they would have been considered heretical.