

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chairman: ERMINIE W. VOEGELIN, Indiana University

Mr. Arthur B. Carr, Indianapolis, was elected chairman of the section for 1948.

ABSTRACTS

A critique of some archaeological field methods. GLENN A. BLACK, Indiana Historical Society.—Articles have appeared recently in two reputable journals of wide circulation describing excavations at Tepexpan in the Valley of Mexico. Photographs accompanying the articles indicate that the excavations have not been made in such a manner as to give conclusive proof of the antiquity of the discoveries. A discussion of the proper field methods to be employed was given.

The origins of the Maya Indians. GEORGE K. NEUMANN, Indiana University.—In his recent volume, *The Ancient Maya*, Morley makes the statement that, “. . . all Maya speaking groups would seem to have sprung originally from the same ancestral stock.” (p. 25) Comparison of measurements of various Maya groups collected by Star and others indicate the contrary. A later Central American variety of Indian probably subjugated earlier ones with a much wider distribution and absorbed them except for certain Maya tribes of the Guatemalan highlands.

A Persian bronze mirror case belonging to Shah-Nasir-al-Din. ALVAN C. EASTMAN, Evansville Public Museum.—The author showed pictures of a damascened bronze mirror case belonging to the Evansville Public Museum. Until recently it was described in the museum files as; “Spain, very old. Evidently belonging to the Moors. Once owned by a Sultan. Bought at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904.” The author has had the inscription translated and found that it had been the property of the Shah of Persia, Nasir-al-Din who reigned from 1848 to 1896. He was the first Persian sovereign to be received at the English court. A description of his visit to Queen Victoria as given in her journal was read.

What makes museums “Tick”. ARTHUR B. CARR, Indianapolis.—No longer a musty storehouse for antiquities today's museum is a real educational laboratory. The author discussed the importance of the displays in the large science museums, and health museums. The choice and arrangement of artifacts in exhibits of Anthropological material was discussed. In summary the author listed specific suggestions for the successful operation of a modern museum.

Stone artifacts and mid-western archaeology. PAUL H. GEBHARD, Indiana University.—A recent extensive study of stone artifacts in

North America brings to light some interesting distributional material on the presence of mid-western artifacts in other parts of North America.

North American Indian drama. BRUCE THOMAS, Indiana University.—The presence of true dramatic performances among the Indians north of Mexico was critically examined, and some positive evidence for the existence of such is adduced.