

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chairman: W. WALLACE, Indiana University

H. E. Driver, Indiana University, was elected chairman for 1950.

ABSTRACTS

A note on the physical anthropology of the Dominica Caribs. ELIAS ADIS-CASTRO, Indiana University.—The Caribs of the island of Dominica are the sole remnant of the once powerful and large Carib tribes of the Antilles. The rest were exterminated or became greatly mixed because of their war-like nature and maritime expansion, on the one hand, and Spanish colonization and the introduction of negro slaves, on the other. Measurements and morphological observations on thirty-six adult males and eighteen adult females were analyzed to describe what the original inhabitants of the West Indies were like and to determine their relationship to a number of South American Carib and Arawak tribes. Due to the inaccessibility of the interior of the island and the lateness of the migration from the continent, it can be demonstrated that this series of Dominica Caribs show very little evidence of hybridization and are most closely related to the Carib and Arawak tribes of the Guianas.

The spatial and temporal distribution of the notched rasp in the New World. HAROLD E. DRIVER, Indiana University.—The notched rasp is a musical instrument found in North America and the Antilles. There are no references to it from South America. Ethnological specimens are most often made of a piece of wood in which from a dozen to perhaps 50 notches have been cut. This is rubbed back and forth with another stick or sometimes a bone. The lower end of the notched stick is often rested on a basket, pot, or gourd which acts as a resonator. Archaeological specimens are mostly of bone, wood being seldom preserved in the ground. They are found in the same area as the ethnological specimens. To delimit this area more specifically, it includes the Antilles, Mexico, and the United States. The most northern tribes using the rasp, the Okanagon and the Plains Cree, straddle the Canadian border. The earliest specimens date from the first half of the first millenium of the Christian era and are located in Mexico, Texas, and Kentucky. While the rasp is also known in the Old World, it is more conservative to consider the New World forms as of independent origin until further research yields more evidence of its diffusion from one hemisphere to the other. The New World forms are thought to have a single origin.

Skeletal material from the Archaic horizon in Posey County, Indiana. GEORGE K. NEUMANN, Indiana University.—The description and analysis

of six crania from an Archaic shell mound that was situated on the bluff that overlooks the left bank of the Wabash, south of New Harmony, shows that the most ancient inhabitants of southern Indiana were closely related to the shell mound people of Kentucky and Tennessee, and somewhat more distantly to the Basket-Makers of the Southwest. An antiquity of from five thousand to fifteen hundred years has been variously ascribed to sites of this kind. These early nomadic hunters and collectors were of relatively slight build, small stature, and had medium proportioned heads and faces.

A method for analyzing numerical systems. ZDENEK SALZMANN, Indiana University.—The description of numerical systems in linguistic and ethnographic literature has so far failed to be wholly structural. A method for a structural analysis is proposed in the application of three patterns which are coexistent in almost any given numerical system. The three patterns are the frame pattern, the cyclic pattern, and the operative pattern. They all are definable in terms of morphology. (For paper see WORD 6:1)