

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chairman: G. A. BLACK, Indiana University

Mrs. G. F. Martin, Evansville, was elected chairman for 1952.

ABSTRACTS

Archaeological field methods and C¹⁴ dating. GLENN A. BLACK, Indiana Historical Society.—The new method of determining dates of archaeological complexes which has been presented to us by the physicist has been accepted without reservation or disclaimed without qualm depending upon whether the date derived did or did not “fit” individual dogma and preconceptions. The physicist is a disinterested party interested in the technique and in the reliability of the mechanics and methods involved. He is, however, at the mercy of the archaeologist and the reliability of the carbon sample with which he works is no greater than the methods by which it was removed from its original context. It, therefore, behooves the field archaeologist to review his methods and to refine them to the extent that with each carbon sample a complete and entirely reliable series of data shall accompany it.

A description and distribution of Yankeetown pottery. EMILY J. BLASINGHAM, Indiana University.—There has been no previous description of Yankeetown Pottery. The type site is located in Warrick County, near the village of Yankeetown, thus the name for the type.

Other sites producing the ware are located in Warrick, Vanderburgh, Posey and Gibson Counties in Indiana, Henderson County, Kentucky and several locales in Southern Illinois. The Henderson County site is the only known Kentucky site and it is on the north side of the Ohio River.

Surface types are varied and indicate a high degree of development of the ceramic tradition. Incising, applied fillets, notching are involved in decorative treatment while the overall vessel surfaces may be plain or cord marked, with an emphasis upon the former.

Chronologically Yankeetown appears to be later than Baumer-Early Woodland in the same area and earlier than fully developed Middle Mississippi as exemplified at Angel Mounds Site. It also appears to belong to the long-lived Baytown Series of ceramic types found over a large area of the central Mississippi River Valley.

Economy, residence and descent among non-literate peoples. HAROLD E. DRIVER, Indiana University.—Matrilineal descent prior to 1492 occurred principally in tropical latitudes where subsistence was mainly on plant foods. The obtaining of wild foods plants was everywhere

chiefly a woman's task. Where domesticated plants were cultivated by hand methods, women in many localities did all or most of the farming. Thus there was a positive correlation between matrilineal descent and the dominant role of women in the subsistence pattern.

Patrilineal descent, on the other hand tends to be correlated with pastoralism, and with the use of draft animals and the plow for agriculture. In both these types of economy men play the dominant role. Patrilineal descent also prevailed in areas of intensive hand cultivation, such as the Far East and Mexico to Peru, where men did most of the farming.

Where strict rules of descent have not crystalized, residence rules sometimes reflect the same tendencies. For example, the sub-arctic and most of the Pacific coast of North America are uniformly bilateral in descent but patrilocal in residence. The hunting and fishing economies of these areas give men the dominant position as provider of food.

The use of photography in ethnological field work. ROBERT F. FORTH, Indiana University.—Instead of making a straight documentary record of ethnological field materials, the documenting should be planned as a whole and edited for purposes of emphasizing certain limited themes. In order to accomplish this it is necessary to place two elements in juxtaposition to imply a third one. For example, it would not be enough to film a sequence showing the breaking of a law and punishment, but there should be a third sequence showing the effect of the latter on the community.

The sunflowers from Tularosa Cave, New Mexico. CHARLES B. HEISER, JR., Indiana University.—Among the prehistoric materials recovered by the Chicago Museum of Natural History at Tularosa Cave, New Mexico, are the heads of several sunflowers. One species has been identified as *Helianthus annuus* var. *lenticularis*, the common wild sunflower. Two other species are also represented but their identity is more doubtful—one is probably *H. praetermissus* and the other is apparently from one of the perennial sunflowers. These specimens are of particular interest in that they represent the first definite plant remains of the sunflower from the Southwest.

A cache of baked clay artifacts found in Indiana. FRANCES PATTON MARTIN, Evansville.—A cache of about 200 baked clay artifacts was found during the winter of 1949-1950 on a Late Archaic Shell Mound Indian site at Clarksville, Indiana. Each of these ceramics was made from a handful of clay compacted with secondary manipulation of pinching and impressing to form rounded knobs and depressions plus punctateings on a few pieces.

Many artifacts similar to these have been found in the Mississippi Valley and the Lower Sacramento valley but this discovery is the first reported in the present Ohio valley and the first mass deposit reported from any site where stones are plentiful. Although the use of these objects is unknown, they always have been regarded as stone-substitutes.

They were made without tempering material of any kind and were used primarily by Indians who did not make or use fired clay vessels.

An application of distributional dating to an anthropological problem. GEORG K. NEUMANN, Indiana University.—When a comparative study is made that involves the distribution of the varieties (physical types) of Indians within a certain time horizon, historic linguistic distributions, and historical data dealing with migrations, the distribution of a set of ethnological traits whose antiquity are unknown can often be placed chronologically. The Star Husband tale of the Plains area can be cited as an example. The distribution of the tale can be explained by the late prehistoric movements of three varieties of Indians who can in turn be linked with tribal and linguistic groups.

The use of tape recording in anthropology. THOMAS B. NOBLE, Indianapolis.—The quality of sound reproduction by magnetic tape is equal to the ability of the human ear to hear.

Compared with other and previous devices, tape has been brought to a practical portability that enables all sound to be caught and preserved, anywhere.

There is a peculiar value to the spoken word over the written, in that it is less inhibited and more truthful. Particularly with Indians, the conversation has little of propaganda and understanding has a more solid foundation when based on it. Translations by natives into English gives even better Indian color.

The author has begun a sound library for the capture of the living voice and spirit of the men in the anthropologic sciences in the southwestern National Park Service. This promises to be a growing and live project that can lift their work from the dusty mimeographs of museum basements.

In collecting Navaho chants, songs, and legends the author has been preserving that branch of Americana that has a chance of being lost as the years pass and changes occur on the reservation.

The Shawnee in relation to Tecumseh's proposed uprising. ERMINIE W. VOEGELIN, Indiana University.—Despite the fact that Tecumseh and his brother The Prophet were Shawnee, neither of these two leaders succeeded in enlisting more than a handful of Shawnee in their proposed general Indian uprising. The non-participation of the Missouri Shawnee seemingly is explainable on the basis of a decision reached by this group sometime after the battle of Point Pleasant in 1774, but the background for the decision of the other large Shawnee group, the Ohio Shawnee, not to participate, was apparently more complicated and the subject of a good deal of counselling on the part of the Ohio Shawnee leaders. Material in the Draper Mss. indicates the important roles that John Coldwater, a relatively unmentioned Shawnee chief, and Blackfoot, a well known Shawnee chief, played in keeping the Ohio Shawnee out of Tecumseh's and The Prophet's conspiracy.