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Department of Prehistoric Anthropology: Annual Report 1892 - 1893

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Copy.

May 5-94.
This copy revised by
Mr. Wilson + addition
made regarding V. C. G.
Final copy for printer
made without alteration

REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PREHISTORIC ANTHROPOLOGY,

in the U. S. National Museum, 1893.

By Thomas Wilson, Curator.

The usual work of the office was kept up during the fiscal year. Specimens were received, classified, arranged, catalogued, marked and distributed; letters were written; reports made. The largest part of the year was consumed in the preparation ^{of exhibits} for the Exposition Historico-Americano, held at Madrid in the latter half of 1892, and for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, in 1893, ~~which will be noticed elsewhere.~~ The Curator was absent on duty at Madrid from July to December, 1892.

Statement of Character of routine work, classification and arrangement of collection, etc.

There were received during the year, 64 accessions, representing 3095 specimens upon the Regular or ~~Permanent~~ ^{Besides} Roll, 27 entries upon the Loan Book, comprising 780 specimens, sent mostly for examination and report. These examinations consume considerable time and require not a little labor. The information desired extends over a wide range, many times covering all the knowledge we have concerning the Prehistoric Man. The questions include the kind of implement, its name, its material, the locality, method of manufacture, distribution and use. A response is often required

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as to the theory propounded by the owner or sender. This entails much correspondence and, finally, when all is completed, the object is to be repacked and returned to its owner.

The classification employed in this department is in two forms: (1) a synoptical arrangement according to the Epochs of Prehistoric Man, assembling a series of the objects supposed to have been employed by Prehistoric Man during a given epoch of civilization; then these epochs are themselves arranged in series, the earliest first, and so continuing down to ~~Historic~~ *Historic* times. The European collection, which belongs principally to the Curator, is thus arranged. The second arrangement is geographical, and it is applied principally to the Americans. Mexico, Central and South America and the various sub-divisions of States or Nations within this territory are each displayed together; so also the objects from the various States of the United States. There are, however, some objects of which the names and purposes are unknown, or at least extremely doubtful, such as ceremonial objects, which have been displayed technologically.

The various objects as they are received and ^{*prepared for exhibition*} ~~ready for display~~, must be displayed in their proper locality according to this arrangement.

This department is becoming crowded, and there is necessity for an increase of room. Not only does this over-crowding detract from good appearance, but, if additional room was given, there could be, not only marked divisions made ^{*where specimens*} ~~in what~~ are now placed too close together, but there could be segregations ac-

ording to different relationships and localities, which would greatly increase the value and good appearance of the Museum.

The year was occupied in preparing exhibits for the ~~e~~positions at Madrid and Chicago, in classifying, cataloguing and marking regular accessions and specimens, examining and reporting upon loan collections and objects, exchanges, ^{and} packing ~~of~~ ^{the} fifty-five (55) boxes of series of 100 plaster casts of stone implements described in the Annual Report for 1891.

The record of office work shows 408 letters written and sent, 182 reports made, and 3590 pages of type-written matter.

Review of special researches prosecuted upon material
belonging to the Department.

Special researches were principally confined to the preparation of exhibits for the Exposition Historico-Americano at Madrid, ~~Spain~~ and the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, both of which took place during the present fiscal year.

P



5-10

Some of the copper objects in the department
were analyzed and studied.

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Present state of the Collection.

~~Museum~~

Number of specimens in the collection as
indicated in the report for the pre-
ceding year 137,890

Number of specimens received in the de-
~~partment of Industrial and Applied Geology~~
partment during the year ending June
30, 1892³, and entered in Vol. XXXI,

Museum Catalogue 3,095 ✓

140,167

from the department

Specimens sent in exchange 240

Number of last entry in June, 1892, 149,401 ✓

Number of last entry in June, 1893, 149,866

from the National Museum
Distribution of ~~duplicate~~ archaeological specimens.

The following statement indicates the distribution of archaeological specimens by the National Museum during the year ending June 30, 1893:

To Mr. Charles Aldrich, Curator of the Historical Department, Capitol Building, Des Moines, Iowa, 2 specimens, a mortar and a pestle.

(Sent Aug. 4, 1892.)

To Prof. Henry Giglioli, Director of the Zoölogical Museum, Royal University, Florence, Italy, 48 ~~archaeological~~ specimens. (Sent Aug. 9, 1892.)

To Mr. Henry E. Brock, Mason City, Iowa, 44 ~~archaeological~~ specimens. (Sent Sept. 27, 1892.)

To Mr. George Sheldon, Deerfield, Massachusetts, 24 ~~archaeological~~ specimens. (Sent Nov. 11, 1892.)

To Mons. A. C. Bonnet, 55 Boulevard St. Michel, Paris, France (in exchange for Acc. 26538, T.W. deposited). 132 ~~archaeological~~ specimens. (Sent April 5, 1893.)

*Exhibits at Madrid Exposition
and World's Columbian Exposition
of this Department*

The Exhibit at Madrid comprised 25,000 pre-historic objects, which were displayed in 19 double slope-top cases in the main hall assigned to the United States. The Exhibit at Chicago comprised 1250 specimens arranged in 7 flat-top cases in an alcove belonging to the space assigned to the United States. The general arrangement of objects in ^{two} ~~both~~ these Expositions was much the same; that is, they were ^{both} ~~both~~ chronological and according to function. The implements and objects belonging to ^{showing human occupation} ~~man and belonging to~~ the earliest period, were arranged in the first cases, and consisted principally of those belonging to ~~the Paleolithic Age,~~ the Alluvial Period of what was in England called the Alluvial or Drift Period; in France the Chel-
leen Epoch of the Paleolithic Period. The various epochs of the Paleolithic Age were represented by implements from Northern and Southern England; from all parts of France; from Italy, Spain and Portugal; from Egypt, by a loan-display from Prof. H. W. Haynes of Boston; ^{and} from Hindostan, Asia; There were casts

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of several prehistoric skulls from Europe — the Neanderthal, Olmo, Laugerie Basse, and Engis.

~~The~~ Implements similar in form, style and manufacture to those of the Paleolithic Age of European countries were shown as coming from the United States, which objects, if found in Europe, would be accepted as ~~being~~ undoubtedly paleolithic. The investigations in this respect in the United States of America have not been so profound as in Europe, and anthropologists and archaeologists are not unanimous concerning the conclusions to be drawn therefrom. There were shown a fossil human thorax and human skull, the ~~latter~~ ^{two} turned to limonite ~~and a~~ fossil human skull and thigh-bone, the ~~two~~ ^{latter} changed to limonite, all from Asprey, Manatee County, Florida, ~~and~~ found by Judge John G. Webb; a fossil pyrula shell bearing the prehistoric engraving of a mammoth, the property of Mrs. Bessie D. Spencer; implements from the Auriferous gravels under Table Mountain, California; others from the Walker River Canon in the extinct Quarternary Lake

Lakoutan

~~La Montan~~, Utah; still others from Fossil Lakes, Oregon. These were followed by prehistoric objects *of* ~~belonging to~~ the Neolithic or Polished Stone Age, those from Europe having precedence. England, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Russia, and the Island of Crede, *and* Japan, Cambodia, were all more or less represented ~~by drilled axes, polished stone axes, hatchets, most of them polished, some only chipped and ready for polishing.~~ The implements from these countries were *largely* ~~principally~~ the same as those from the United States. In the display made from the United States, every state and territory was represented by ~~the usual and, in many cases, the rare~~ *objects* ~~implements~~ belonging to prehistoric man - polished stone axes; hatchets; grooved axes; drilled axes; all arranged in series according to form, style and size; mauls, adzes, gouges, some from the West Indies being of shell; extensive series of caches of leaf-shaped and other implements were also shown, principally from Pennsylvania and Ohio, though some were

from Tennessee and Arkansas; a full series of
 implements from the quarries and workshops of Flint
 Ridge, Licking County, Ohio; scrapers of all kinds;
 arrow- and spear-heads arranged in the latest classi-
 fication, leaf-shaped, triangular and stemmed, *and*
~~with an addition of~~ those of peculiar form; large
 flint discs; ceremonial objects; ornaments and
 weapons, cup- and pitted-stones, drilled tablets,
 discoidal stones ("Chungkee"), sinkers, pendants or
 charms, perforators, tubes and beads and pipes ~~as~~
 shown as specimens of aboriginal drilling; club-
 heads, *digg* ~~digging~~ sticks, riatas, ~~mortars~~ and grind-
 ing stones; pestles; steatite vessels and the im-
 plements with which they were made; hematite ob-
 jects; agricultural ~~or~~ digging implements arranged
 in series; aboriginal sculptures; objects in shell,
 horn and bone; stone daggers and swords; slate
 knives; copper implements from the United States;
 stone collars and zemes from Proto Rico; stone
 masks, clubs and hatchets from the West Indies;
 jade, turquoise, rock *crystal* from Alaska, Mexico,
 Cen

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Central and South America; obsidian from California and Mexico; gold objects and ornaments from Chiriqui and from Antioquia, ^{from Central & South America;} plaster models of mounds; aboriginal towns and monuments belonging to Indian tribes; and, for purposes of comparison, numerous objects from the modern North American Indian were shown in the glass case duly labeled with the tribe, locality and special point of comparison indicated.

The collection was arranged in groups so that a single label would comprise as many objects as possible. The labels were prepared with care, printed on herbarium board and displayed with the objects so as to be easily read by the public.

Upon the request of the Assistant Secretary, the Curator of this department arranged his private collection of laces in historic sequence, according to their various kinds, epochs, ^{and} countries, and prepared them for display at the Exposition at Chicago. They were assigned to ^{the} department of Ethnology, devoted to woman's work and were in the Woman's Building.

*Copied
L. H.*

REPORT ON THE
OPERATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PREHISTORIC
ANTHROPOLOGY

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM,

During the Fiscal Year ending June 30th., 1893.

THOMAS WILSON,

Curator.

I

REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PREHISTORIC ANTHROPOLOGY
IN THE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM, 1893.

By THOMAS WILSON, Curator

The usual work of the office was kept up during the fiscal year. Specimens were received, classified, arranged, catalogued, marked and distributed; letters were written; reports made. The largest part of the year was consumed in the preparation for the exposition Historico-Americano held at Madrid in the latter half of 1892, and for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893, which be noticed elsewhere. The Curator was absent on duty at Madrid from July to December, 1892.

STATEMENT OF CHARACTER OF ROUTINE WORK, CLASSIFICA-
TION AND ARRANGEMENT OF COLLECTION, ETC.

~~The character of the routine work has been much the same as in former years. It consists of the reception of specimens, their classification, cataloguing, entering and, finally, marking and distribution.~~

There were received during the ~~past~~ ~~fiscal~~ year, 64 Accessions representing 3095 specimens upon the Regular or Permanent Roll; ~~There were~~ 27 entries ~~made~~ upon the Loan Book, comprising 780 specimens, sent mostly for examination and report. These examinations consume considerable time and require not a little labor. The information desired extends over a wide range, many times covering all the knowledge we have concerning the Pre-historic Man. The questions include the kind of implement, its name, its material, the locality, method of manufacture, distribution and use. A response is often required as to the theory propounded

by the owner ~~and~~^{or} sender. This entails much correspondence and, finally, when all is completed, the object is to be repacked and returned to its owner.

The classification employed in this Department is in two forms: (1) a synoptical arrangement according to the Epochs of Prehistoric Man, assembling a series of the objects supposed to have been employed by Prehistoric Man during a given epoch of civilization; then these epochs are themselves arranged in series, the earliest first, and so continuing down to Historic Times. The European collection, which belongs principally to the Curator, is thus arranged. The second arrangement is geographical, and it is applied principally to the Americas. Mexico, Central and South America and the various sub-divisions of States or Nations within this territory are each displayed together; so also the objects from the various States of the United States. There are, however, some objects of which the names and purposes are unknown or at least extremely doubtful, such as

Ceremonial ^{objects} ~~weapons~~, which have been displayed technologically.

The various objects as they are received and ready for display, must be displayed in their proper locality according to this arrangement. ~~This occasionally results in crowding the specimens, but the receipt of the cases of drawers, which serve as stands for the glass double slope topped cases, has afforded an opportunity for storage in the proper locality.~~

This Department is becoming crowded and there is necessity for an increase of room. Not only does this over-crowding detract from good appearance, but, if additional room was given, there could be, not only marked divisions made in what ~~are~~ now placed too close together, but there could be segregations according to different relationships and localities which would greatly increase the value and good appearance of the Museum.

The record of office work shows 408 letters written and sent; 182 reports made; and 3590 pages of type-written matter.

IV.
REVIEW OF SPECIAL RESEARCHES PROSECUTED UPON MATERIAL BELONGING TO THE DEPARTMENT.

Preparation of the Exhibits of this Department for the International Expositions at Madrid and Chicago, both of which occurred within the last fiscal year, prevented the prosecution of extensive or continuous researches upon material.

In accordance with the request of the Director, the Curator of this Department arranged his private collection of laces, according to their various kinds, epochs, countries, and in historic sequence, and prepared them for display at the Exposition at Chicago. They were displayed in that Department of Ethnology devoted to Woman's work. A descriptive Catalogue of 250 type-written pages was also prepared. Some of the Copper objects were studied and analyzed.

This labor, with that of classifying, cataloguing and marking regular specimens, the examination and report upon loan collections, exchanges,

packing of fifty-five (55) boxes of the series of
100 plaster casts of implements described in
Annual Report for 1891, with the letters, reports,
and 3590 pages of type-written matter, fully
occupied our time during the year.

V.

PRESENT STATE OF COLLECTION.

Number of specimens in the collection
as indicated in the Report for the pre-
ceeding year -----137,890

Number of specimens received in the
department during the year ending June 30th
1893, and entered in Vol. XXXI, Museum
Catalogue ----- 3,095

140,167

Specimens sent in exchange ----- 240

139,927

Number of last entry in June 1892 ----- 149,401

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132 archaeological specimens. (Sent April 5,
1893.

II

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.

MEMORANDUM.

Mr Geare: In Talking with Mr
Goode I could not see that
I needed any no II "accessions"
in my report. He said, to I
understood, that it was ~~not~~
~~needless~~ to put in a list of acco:
that it was already put in
Elsewhere & gotten by you without
depending on curators—

Any descriptions of particular
accessions might be prepar-
ed as they come in, without
waiting for the year's end &

be printed in the proceedings,
thus appearing a year earlier
than if they waited to be printed
within the report.

So if there be no list of access.
& no description of import-
ant ones there is nothing
required for no II

Respectfully
JW

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Bib. 93

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American Naturalist.)

Man and the Mylodon. No. 307, July, 1892,
pp. 629-631.

Importance of the Science and of the
Department of Prehistoric Anthropology.
No. 308, August, 1892, pp. 681-690. No. 310,
October, 1892, pp. 809-816.

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No. 315, March, 1893, pp. 300-305. No. 318,
June, 1893, pp. 579-581.

Language vs. Anatomy in determining
Human Races. No. 318, June, 1893, pp. 581-
582.

The Nephrite of New Zealand. No. 318,
June, 1893, pp. 582-583.

THOMAS WILSON. (American Antiquarian).

Ancient Etruria. Vol. XV., No. 1,
pp. 25-32.

Report of Dept. of P. A. for.