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National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center

Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation - Annual Reports, 1921-1924

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the rock strata in these districts were not propitious for the formation of dry rockshelters.

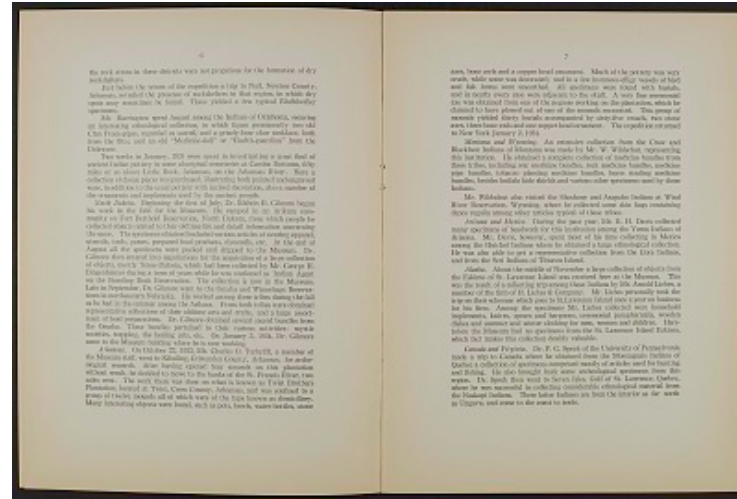
Just before the return of the expedition a trip to Nail, Newton County, Arkansas, revealed the presence of rockshelters in that region, in which dry spots may sometimes be found. These yielded a few typical Bluffdweller specimens.

Mr. Harrington spent August among the Indians of Oklahoma, securing an interesting ethnological collection, in which figure prominently two old Clan Peace-pipes, regarded as sacred, and a grizzly-bear claw necklace, both from the Oto; and an old "Medicine-doll" or "Health-guardian" from the Delaware.

Two weeks in January, 1924 were spent in investigating a great find of ancient Indian pottery in some aboriginal cemeteries at Carden Bottoms, fifty miles or so above Little Rock, Arkansas, on the Arkansas River. Here a collection of choice pieces was purchased, illustrating both painted and engraved ware, in addition to the usual pottery with incised decoration, also a number of the ornaments and implements used by the ancient people.

North Dakota. Beginning the first of July, Dr. Melvin R. Gilmore began his work in the field for the Museum. He camped in an Arikara community on Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota, from which people he collected objects related to their oldtime life and detail information concerning the same. The specimens obtained included various articles of wearing apparel, utensils, tools, games, prepared food products, dyestuffs, etc. At the end of August all the specimens were packed and shipped to the Museum. Dr. Gilmore then entered into negotiations for the acquisition of a large collection of objects, mostly Teton-Dakota, which had been collected by Mr. George H. Bingenheimer during a term years while he was stationed as Indian Agent on the Standing rock Reservation. The collection is now in the Museum. Late in September, Dr. Gilmore went to the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations in northeaster Nebraska. He worked among these tribes during the fall as he had in the summer among the Arikara. From both tribes were obtained representative collections of their oldtime arts and crafts, and a large assortment of food preparations. Dr. Gilmore obtained several sacred bundles from the Omaha. These bundles pertained to their various activities: mystic societies, trapping, the healing arts, etc. On January 3, 1924, Dr. Gilmore came to the Museum building where he is now working.

Arkansas. On October 22, 1923, Mr. Charles O. Turbyfill, a member of the Museum staff, went to Kiboling, Crittenden County, Arkansas, for archeological research. After having opened four mounds on this plantation without result, he decided to move to the banks of the St. Francis River, two miles west. The work there was done on what is known as Twist Brothers Plantation, located at Twist, Cross County, Arkansas and was confined to a group of twelve rounds all of which were of the type known as domiciliary. Many interesting objects were found, such as pots, bowls, water-bottles, stone



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axes, bone awls and a copper head ornament. Much of the pottery was very crude, while some was decorated; and in a few instances effigy vessels of bird and fish forms were unearthed. All specimens were found with burials, and in nearly every case were adjacent to the skull. A very fine ceremonial axe was obtained from one of the negroes working on the plantation, which he claimed to have plowed out of one of the mounds excavated. This group of mounds yielded thirty burials accompanied by sixty-five vessels, two stone axes, three bone awls and one copper head ornament. The expedition returned to New York January 2, 1924.

Montana and Wyoming. An extensive collection from the Crow and Blackfoot Indians of Montana was made by Mr. W. Wildschut, representing this institution. He obtained a complete collection of medicine bundles from these tribes, including war medicine bundles, rock medicine bundles, medicine pipe bundles, tobacco planting medicine bundles, horse stealing medicine bundles, besides buffalo hide shields and various other specimens used by those Indians.

Mr. Wildschut also visited the Shoshone and Arapaho Indians at Wind River Reservation, Wyoming, where he collected some skin bags containing dance regalia among other articles typical of these tribes.

Arizona and Mexico. During the past year, Mr. E. H. Davis collected many specimens of beadwork for this institution among the Yuma Indians of Arizona. Mr. Davis, however, spent most of his time collecting in Mexico among the Huichol Indians where he obtained a large ethnological collection. He was also able to get a representative collection from the Cora Indians, and from the Seri Indians of Tiburon Island.

Alaska. About the middle of November a large collection of objects from the Eskimo of St. Lawrence Island was received here at the Museum. This was the result of a collecting trip among these Indians by Mr. Arnold Liebes, a member of the firm of H. Liebes & Company. Mr. Liebes personally took the trip on their schooner which goes to St. Lawrence Island once a year on business for his firm. Among the specimens Mr. Liebes collected were household implements, knives, spear and harpoons, ceremonial paraphernalia, wooden dishes and summer and winter clothing for men, women and children. Heretofore the Museums had no specimens from the St. Lawrence Island Eskimo, which fact makes this collection doubly valuable.

Canada and Virginia. Dr. F. G. Speck of the University of Pennsylvania made a trip to Canada where he obtained from the Montagnais Indians of Quebec a collection of specimens comprised mostly of articles used for hunting and fishing. He also brought back some archeological specimens from his region. Dr. Speck then went to Seven Isles, Gulf of St. Lawrence, Quebec, where he was successful in collecting considerable ethnological material from the Naskapi Indians. These latter Indians are from the interior as far north as Ungava, and come to

the coast to trade.

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