

1894
Section of American & Prehistoric Archaeology -

Report of the Curator -

During the past year

The Department of Am. & Prehist. Arch. has gained ground ^{in the} ~~last year~~ in each of the objects for which it was founded -

So many have been the gifts, deposits & collections received that it is now confronted with the difficulty of want of space in its Museum, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~while~~ ^{of the increasing} there can be no question that the number of its friends ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~continually increasing~~ & acknowledgments come unasked to prove that it has ~~interested~~ ^{interested} & instructed the public.

Meanwhile Equally certain is it that few of the ~~past~~ ^{that are past} months have failed to see its' scientific reputation increase in America & Europe.

We owe thanks to the generosity of the Numismatic & Antiquary Society of Philadelphia for ~~an~~ ^{an extensive} archaeological collection including a remarkable series of pottery, implements, copper objects & fabrics from Peru, and the Museum takes particular pride

2) in the group of Central American
Earthenware generously given it
by ~~Charles~~ Mr Charles H. Cramp
one specimen of which a vase
painted with Maya Hieroglyphs
of extreme interest, has thrown
new light upon the problem of
the lost languages of Yucatan
Dr Robert H. Lambert having en-
riched us with a set of beauti-
ful specimens illustrating the
discovery + use of gems has ^{allowed} ~~caused~~
us to outvie many other rival
exhibits of prehistoric European
prehistoric handiwork by a deposited
collection of casts of the ^{French} Cave draw-
ings which has attracted the
attention of most visitors to the
Museum. Besides our thanks
to Mrs Cornelius Stevenson for ^{the gift of} an in-
-teresting specimen of earthenware
from the Cauca Valley U.S. of
Columbia we owe grateful ack-
-nowledgments to Mr Joseph E. Rosen-
-garten for an Alaskan hat of
plaited grass, to Mr James W. John-
-son for a very perfect Central
American ~~metate~~ ^{metate} to Mrs Mitchell
Harrison for an interesting Mexican
pitcher, to Mrs Walter M. James
for a miniature metate from
Neàragua, to Dr S. Wier Mitchell

Lumbholz - Arthur Biddle -
Miss Pendleton - Man that
saw arrowheads fr. North Carolina
Alaskan things - Dr. Sewarty, lander

3) for a very interesting Luric
Ceremonial Basket ^{see deposit}
Mr Samuel M. Scott a Peruvian
collection of extreme interest con-
sisting of pottery fabrics looms
objects used in metal working &
making lacquer, all the results of
his own excavations in Peru

Prof. Brown of the University ~~has kindly assisted~~ & Mr
Pilsbry of the Academy of Nat. Sciences have kindly assisted
us in the identification of minerals and shells,
and further grateful acknowledgments are due
to Mr Clarence B. Moore for specimens
from the mounds of Ohio & Florida,
& Mr Charles Laubach for
specimens from the Delaware
valley, & to Dr Wetherell
& Mr Edwin Balch for interesting
Eskimo implements, & to Mr
Henry E. Swayne for potsherds from
Florida.

4) While ~~As~~ Mrs D. E. Kercher had kindly helped our exhibit of Aboriginal pipes with a gift of a much desired specimen of "Killikimick," ~~so~~ Professor Harshberger of the University & Signor Capelle of Verona ~~made~~ ^{distinguished} a ~~feature~~ of our Maize display by a series of varieties of the grain on the ear & Italian maize bread, ~~while~~ ^{so} Mr F. H. Cushing who had embellished our aboriginal quarry cases with photographs of his models of Indians at work and assisted us greatly in the identification of specimens, or Native Rock, ~~generously~~ added to our collection a ^{full} series of the colored Tuni ceremonial breads made by himself.

Lieut. General Pitt Rivers of Rushmore England ~~has~~ presented us with a beautiful edition of his archaeological works, John Beard Jr. of Boston with a skull of the Gallo-Roman period from Spain, Mr Charles H. Read ~~sent~~ of the British Museum some human remains from the Saxon Cemetery on Highdown Hill Sussex, & to make our European palaeolithic collection perhaps the most interesting in America Mr Worthington G.

9) Smith of D unstable England
~~has~~ generously ^{given} us one
of the chipped flints found by
him in situ on the palaeolithic
floor at Stoke Newington London

~~Smith~~

Meanwhile the entire Museum has
been put in order, ~~all~~ unlabelled
specimens labelled, ^{descriptive letters placed on file} and all
exhibited objects rearranged under
a logical system of display
that gives prominence to specimens
whose history & meaning can
be shown upon labels & dia-
grams - In cataloguing & account-
ing for ^{donations} ~~spec~~ objects in the absence
of the Curator & thus often
extending the time of the latter

6) for field work & in advising
additions to our collections
place & arrangement for many
of them, after the Museum
had become too small to hold
them, the Department owes
grateful thanks to the untiring
zeal of its Director Mr Stewart
Culin.

The effort to extend instruction
in the department by a series of
lectures in the Museum which has
gained us many friends, & im-
proved our relations with other
institutions, has been greatly fur-
thered by the zeal of Dr Daniel
G. Brinton to whom the Department
owes continued thanks for inval-
uable support & information.

^{the} ~~the~~ ^{results} ~~results~~ of ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{field} ~~field~~ ^{work} ~~work~~ ^{of the department}
^{margin} ~~(not yet exhibited)~~ ^{which} will be of the
highest importance to the student,
and with the light thrown upon
their meaning by the kind assis-
tance of Professor ^{E.D.} Cope will compel
the future historian & investigator
to visit our Museum. The fossil
beds of Texas, the Cave regions of
Pennsylvania & Tennessee, & the Caverns
of Virginia West Virginia, Ohio
Kentucky Indiana & Illinois have
been explored in the past months
& have placed us, before other
scientific bodies in the United States

7.) in possession of ^{unique} evidence
which may shortly settle
the question of Man's Antiquity
in Eastern North America.

H. C. Mercer.

1884

Dept of Cinematograph
Section American
and Prehistoric

Archaeology
Museum of
University of Pennsylvania

M
Mercer

2/ And that these people, substantially the ancestors of the present Maya Indians had not developed their culture in Yucatan but had brought it with them from somewhere else.

These results described in full in an illustrated report (The Hill Caves of Yucatan, J. P. Lippencott Company, ¹⁸⁹⁶) have been presented to Science by the ~~Gen~~ Mr Cowitt whose liberality in equipping the Expedition has gone farther in assuming in full the costs of publication.

The cave work in Yucatan being finished the Section of American & Prehistoric Archaeology re-established an Association begun during the Autumn of 1894 with the most important fossil bearing cave in the Eastern United States, the so called "Bone Hole" at Port Kennedy - Montgomery Co. Pennsylvania - he discovered in 1894 by the chance blast of a limestone Quarryman.

Directing the excavations in ^{the} person of its factor, while co-operating with the Academy of Natural Sciences, the original finder of the deposit, the Section of ~~the~~ American & Prehistoric Archaeology has added to our knowledge of the climate & conditions of the Pleistocene Epoch in Eastern North America.

A study of the deep fissure filled with stratified earth & the remains of animals ^{the Section with the assistance of} has enabled Professor Cope to develop new facts in the history of the family of Extinct Sloths - (Megalonyx ^{idae}) then inhabiting Pennsylvania.

3/- I have and demonstrate for the first time the
Existence of the Lama the Sabee toothed tiger (Mi-
-lodon) & the hyena in the Pleistocene beds of North
America, & extend the North Eastern range of the
^{American} fossil horse & the Eastern habitat of the Pleis-
-ocene bear (Arctotherium) and I prove the abun-
-dance of the Skunk & other existing species
together with the tapir, peccary, and masto-
-don in the Schuylkill Valley, while the nu-
-merous specimens of tree nuts tree's seeds
& leaves must further demonstrate to the bot-
-anist the prevailing conditions of climate at
a time older by one geological degree than the
present when man is alleged to have existed
upon the American Continent.

These & have the interests of two Institutions
been served by friendly co-operation at a spot
where specimens remain for all & where, though
no human ^{relics} ~~remains~~ have yet appeared, Paleontol-
-ogists on the one hand & Anthropologists on the
other are equally interested.

While these excavations were in progress the
discovery by Lieutenant Colonel D. Darnford of ancient
aboriginal rope & netting in a West Florida mud
bank turned the attention of the section to an
unexplored archaeological field where prehis-
-toric objects representing a past period of Florid-
-an culture lie buried like the Lacustrine
remains of Switzerland in beds of tide washed
mud. The importance of the discovery fol-
-lowed by a presentation of specimens to the mu-
-seum was appreciated at once by the President

4/ of the Department. Dr. Mrs. Pepper & its Director
Mr. Stewart Galien and has resulted in a prelimi-
-nary investigation of the site, a discovery of
further Prehistoric specimens & finally in the Equip-
-ment by Dr. Pepper of an Expedition under the
direction of Mr. F. H. Cushing, now in Florida
& occupied in a special investigation of the
Abie bearing mud. ~~located~~

Meanwhile the Hoagland collections loaned
with option of purchase to the Museum have
placed the American Section for a time in
possession of a large series of well preserved
objects of wood, cloth, bone and stone dug
from the dry Abie preserving rubbish of Cliff
houses in Southern Colorado & these, thanks
to the ~~careful~~ labors of Mr. Galien & the iden-
-tifications obtained by him from the Yuma Ex-
-plorer, Mr. F. H. Cushing now present as with
an Exhibit which for the present gives to the Mu-
-seum a place of honor among sources of infor-
-mation upon the condition & culture of the
Cliff Dwelling People of the Southern Rocky
Mountains.

The following is a list of objects generously pre-
-sented to or deposited in the Museum by its
friends during the past year.

H. C. Merce
Henry

W. Mercer's report

Section of American
y prehistoric Archaeology
(for 1895) 1896

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHÆOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

SECTION OF
AMERICAN AND PREHISTORIC ARCHÆOLOGY.

HENRY C. MERCER, CURATOR.

Thursday night
Dear Mr Curlin -

Send the notes to Doxhat -
& Ill doctor up the Report.
As to Telegraph - as follows.
Somewhat after this manner.

The foreign correspondence of
the Dept. of Am & Prehist.
Arch. has increased of late.
Last week Professor Doctor
Johannes Ranke of Munich*
Sent the Curator important
notes in answer to a number
of questions asked, describing
the ~~recent~~ results of recent
Cave Explorat. in Germany.
These are soon to be published
in Professor Cope's Journal
The American Naturalist
Published at 2102 Pine St.

* Better give him his full title
It sounds grand -

2)

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HENRY C. MERCER, CURATOR.

Philadelphia & by the Edwards
Docker Co. 518 Minor St.,)
The Naturalist has published
& will continue to publish
accounts of explorations &
other original works connected
with the Department.

The Reverend Signor Anelli
of Monza Italy (the inventor
of Anellis Maize bread)
has kindly promised to send
to the Museum specimens
of all the Indian Corn breads
produced by him. These
contain such an admixture
of other materials as to
mitigate ^{(a disease called Pelagra common among} the effects of too
^{Indian people who eat} much of the American grain
(introduced into Europe from
the New World after Columbus's
Discovery) in a form called
Polenta (boiled mush)

No investigators in England
have been ~~so fortunate~~
~~in doing~~ discovered such

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Extensive & remarkable traces
of Earliest Man as Mr
F. G. Spurrell and Mr
W. G. Smith of Dunstable both
of whom have had the
good fortune to find buried
under beds of Drift, not
isolated tools & chips only,
but whole workshops
of the Drift Man. Mr Spurrell
invented the unique experiment
of hunting among the many
chips found for those which
fitted together & when the ~~mass~~
mass of ^{juxtaposed} ~~fitted~~ flakes had
come to the proper shape, he
poured plaster of Paris into
the space left empty between
them. The result was a
cast in plaster of the exact
shape that the Drift-man
had tried to fashion.
Mr Smith continued these
experiments at Stoke Newing-
ton & Caddington & has fur-
-ally

4) gathered together ^{at Dumbleton} a series
of specimens of extreme interest
which no student should
fail to see. Some of these
he has been kind enough
to give to the Museum of
American & Prehistoric Arch.
at the Univ.

~~To~~ the archaeologist
who visits England without
seeing Lieut. General Pitt-
Rivers' Museum at Rushmore
near Salisbury makes a
serious mistake. The logical
& attractive arrangement
of archaeological ~~ethnological~~
specimens at once arrests
the attention, ~~leaves a~~
~~de~~ & a deep impression is
made by such exhibits as
illustrate the development
of Costume - & pottery, ~~*~~
the evolution of locks & keys
& the form of the cross.
General Rivers besides
having built an inn
for the accommodation
of persons visiting the Museum

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5) ^{by way of making the place still more attractive} was restored, ^{of furnished as a reading room} an ancient house at Toller - Royal, once the hunting lodge of King John, & ~~throws~~ ^{gives} the pleasure gardens ~~of~~ Cranborne Chase are ~~thrown open~~ ^{thrown open} to all comers on Sunday ^{when while the travellers enjoy the romantic hospitality of general Rivers in the grove with its many towers} after noon ~~there~~ a band in ancient British costume plays on the green - Lieutenant General Pitt-Rivers has devoted himself particularly to the exploration of English Barrows, of the Stone Bronze & ~~Gallo Roman~~ Romano-British periods, & beautiful models of all of his excavations are to be seen in ~~the~~ his Museum - He has been kind enough to present the University Museum with a splendidly illustrated edition of all his works

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P.S. You might make something
of Read, digging up Saxon
cemetery on High Down Hill
near Worthing ~~Sussex~~ Sussex &
giving us an interesting jaw - found
near amber beads & bronze
ornaments - & glass vase with
a greek inscription -
Also Miss Cornelia Horsford
of Cambridge Mass - in
Cont'n. Corresp. w. Museum
while investigat. the supposed
sites of Norse villages -
Leif Ericson's house - &
Norumbega - on the Charles
River Cambridge - During
summer the authenticity of
the sites admitted by Mr.
G. Fowke ^{& Prof. Megee} of the Museum of th.
& Miss H. gave me a series
of photos illustrating all
the sites - & I suppose the
Museum will have to have
them -
I suppose this is enough
but can give you more when
I see you - ^{did you get Perrybackers}
antler in 2 or 3 birds
(over) H.C.M. (over)

Postscriptum -

Pring in Clarence Moore
before Miss Hoveford -
He gave us (see label)
specimens from a very interes-
ting cache of carefully buried
Flintstone chips, in a Fla
mound - & cuts of two of
the remarkable ^{earthstone} objects ~~of~~
found in Volusia Mound,
one - an animal resembling
a Tapir which would indicate
that the Fla. Indians had
seen that (in North A.)
extinct animal - & the other
a ~~model~~ diminutive model
of an ear of maize -
Also gave us ~~a~~ a specimen
of the shell implements of
Fla - a chisel made of a
fulgur shell -

Addendum -

will be done here next
week - for the winter - & then
want to make a coup with
the copper - to get Moore to
~~send us~~ give us his plates
from ~~his collection~~ ^{the Smithsonian}
will try Washington also for
the ~~stone~~ ^{stone} plates & make a
hand some thing of it if I have
to work all night to do it -
Yours H.C.M.

admission reached me - so that my lack
of knowledge of the case covers the
period you wish to report upon -
I have seen case after case relabelled
or stowed away in drawers sometimes
with ^{double} drawers without & against my consent
without keeping any exact record of the
matter - I have but heard of any
important acquisition in the Section
during the time, that is all -

This would be all that I could
say to Mr Clark - the specimens are
in what condition the specimens are
now, or how easy it will be to
reinstatate them I can not say - That
can best be done when the material
of the Section is brought over out of
the present tangle & placed in ^{cases or trays} in the
space to be given it - When I see that
I can decide as to space etc -
Thereupon I feel sure that certain
clearly defined changes in the Government
are necessary such as that, Each
Section should have its own room
& each curator his own jurisdiction
The power of the Director over the
Curators should be clearly defined, &
Cases of doubt or discussion should
have some known just & certain
mode of adjustment - When this is done
with the best advice & care the compli-
cated American & Prehistoric Section can
go on smoothly in the hands of any
faithful curator who has the
strength & will to do its work -
Hoping that you will have no trouble
in putting up your Report I am
in anything but sincerely yours
H. C. Mercer.