



A HITTITE STONE EAGLE

ways. For one thing they had long heads which were not deformed by flattening at the back as were the heads of Cliff Dwellers. They do not seem to have built houses or used the bow and arrow, having had only short spears which they used with spear-throwers. They grew a primitive variety of maize, but no cotton; they had no true pottery, but they were master craftsmen when it came to basketry. Their baskets, sandals, woven bags, and cradles [Plate IX] were excellently made.

The Museum is fortunate in possessing a representative collection of Basket Maker and Cliff Dweller material, some of which originally constituted part of the Wetherill collection. It includes baskets made of yucca, grass, and coiled willow, decorated and plain, bone tools used in weaving baskets and mats, gouges for scraping hides, awls of deer and turkey bone, bodkins, whistles and ornaments. There are also implements of wood, spear and arrow points of stone, knives and awls with wooden handles, woven bags, and fur cloth.

Mr. Howard, Associate in the American Section, is now classifying the collection for study upon the several points such as origin, distribution, and relationships, upon which archæologists are yet undecided regarding these remote ancestors of present Indian tribes.

9. *A Hittite Tufa
Eagle*

INCLUDED in an extensive collection of classical and Babylonian antiquities lent to the Museum through the courtesy of Miss Elise B. Robinson is the interesting example of

Hittite sculpture formerly in the collections of the late H. V. Hilprecht [Plate X]. This eagle, carved from what is apparently a species of tufa, is simply executed, yet shows considerable skill and mastery of material. The handling of the curved surfaces, the bold and rugged treatment of the head with hooked beak and staring eyes are particularly pleasing.

The eagle was apparently locally worshipped in various parts of the Empire. According to Garstang such a cult was general within the circuit of the Halys, as is suggested by the great monument which now lies prone in a wild spot overlooking the river near Tamoola and by various smaller objects, as well as by a newly deciphered cuneiform fragment (from Boghaz-Keui) on which mention is made in ideographic writing of the house or temple of the eagle. It is perhaps with such a cult that we can connect the present piece of sculpture.

10. *Certain Coins in the* **I***N* the John Thompson Morris *Classical Collection* Collection of gold and silver coins, on exhibition in the Sharpe Gallery, are many examples from Greek and Roman mints.

According to tradition the invention of coinage may be attributed to the Lydians, probably in the eighth century B.C. We know that Cræsus (568-554 B.C.) issued the first gold and silver coins of Lydia and we are fortunate in having an example dating from his period [Plate XI, B].

A century and a half later come the beautiful Syracuse