

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chairman: GEORG K. NEUMANN, Indiana University

B. K. SCHWARTZ, Ball State University, was elected chairman for 1968

ABSTRACTS

Stature of some Prehistoric American Indian Populations of Eastern United States—Geographic Clines and Phyletic Lines. GEORG K. NEUMANN, Indiana University.—Clinal studies usually concern themselves with the elucidation of the relationship of some structural or functional characteristic to particular ecological conditions across geographical areas on a synchronous level, whereas phyletic studies usually deal with the tracing of biological populations identified by clusters of structural or functional characteristics that distinguish evolutionary lines over a span of time. In this paper the results of studies employing these two approaches are contrasted as they apply to the distribution of stature of prehistoric American Indian populations of eastern United States over a time span of approximately eight thousand years.

Diagnostic Morphological Characteristics in the Diagnosis of Ancestral Components in Negro-white Hybrids in the United States. GEORG K. NEUMANN and SUDHA S. SAKSENA, Indiana University.—A morphological and a morphometric assessment was made on three biological populations representing two major geographical races (the Full Negro and British White) to verify the reliability of the two methods of assessment in racial discrimination. A multivariate analysis was employed to select metric characteristics which discriminate most the two groups. The visual, i. e., observational method was used to assess the morphological categories. The two methods produced highly concordant results in the two-group comparison, the additive nature enhancing the total discrimination.

Preliminary Report on some Burials from the Iliniwek Indian Cemetery at Fort Chartres. JOHN FREDERICK TINCER, Indiana University.—Although excavations have been carried out at the site of Fort Chartres, west of the town of Prairie du Rocher in Randolph County, Illinois, little is known about the different bands of Iliniwek Indians who had two villages in the vicinity of the French fort between 1697 and 1765. Recent flooding of the Mississippi exposed a series of shallow burials accompanied by Woodland pottery and French trade goods which are described in this paper.

A Preliminary Report on a Probable Occupation Site. BEN MORRIS, Ball State University.—In a pre-glacial river bottom near a known Fort Ancient cemetery located in Henry Township, Henry County, Indiana, a survey indicated a single component occupation site, probably Fort Ancient in time.

An assemblage of artifacts included drills, celts, scrapers, manos

and extremely thin, well chipped, triangular points of tan or gray chert with an average length of about one and one-quarter inches.

All of the artifacts were recovered in a well defined area, which, in addition, supported the geographic criteria necessary to sustain a population.

Mound Four, West, New Castle Site. SCHUYLER TOWNSEND and BEN MORRIS, Ball State University.—The third season of excavation of Mound Four (Site Hn-1, New Castle, Indiana) lasted from June 12 to July 14, 1967. Our objective was to excavate the northwest quadrant of Mound Four until proven sterile. Our findings consisted of a point, 5½ inches long, assumed to be possibly an unhafted knife, and an ash lens containing pottery sherds. The most significant accomplishment was completing the sherd sample from the cremation pit area previously uncovered.

A Preliminary Report of the Pottery from New Castle Site Hn 1. RANDALL L. BUCHMAN, Ball State University.—An inventory of the pottery found at Mound 4 (a unit of the New Castle site), Henry County, Indiana. The sherds are compared to other types in the Woodland Ware and Series. A new type is described in the work and a discussion of some of the problems of Woodland pottery, including a new system of classifying Adena pottery, is presented.

NOTES

Basic Data Report or Artifact Slips: An Examination of an Archaeological Procedure. B. K. SWARTZ, JR., Ball State University.—After the materials of an excavation are catalogued, the next standard procedure practiced by most American archaeologists is the preparation of artifact slips or cards. On these the following information is usually included: (1) catalogue number (to tie slip to catalogue record), (2) site, (3) provenience, (4) measurements, (5) associations, (6) description of the specimen, and (7) a sketch of the object. Advocates of artifact slips say that when all the material is recorded in this manner you can write a site report with an analysis and description of the artifacts from these slips. The collection is no longer necessary, but they will admit that "checking back" is advisable. After the report is composed little is mentioned of the disposition of the slips.

I feel that there is an inherent flaw in this procedure. Who can check your typology? This is not only a question of competence on the part of the archaeologist, but in the course of continuing research additional data requiring modification and revision of most any typology will eventually appear. The artifact slip advocate can say—"Check the collection." Practical experience demonstrates that this is seldom possible. The basic reason is that the collection is probably no longer intact. Even if it is, however, often a researcher has neither time nor money to travel long distances to consult with the materials. What has happened is that we have a proliferation of typologies, all of which must be considered realistic on the basis of faith or the reputation of the investigator. They cannot be checked.

I propose that another alternative be followed. It is a standard operation of the experimental and natural sciences—the Basic Data Report. Here you would type artifacts—not slips of paper. The information contained on artifact slips would be listed on large sheets of paper, preferably 8½x11 inches, first by type and then by catalogue number, with the additional information following. Drawings of the objects would be on separate, but adjacent, sheets, labeled by catalogue number, which would key them to the typological listing.

The advantage of the Basic Data Report is that all your raw data can be made easily available to other researchers. It would be a simple matter, with present-day copying machines, to mail copies of a basic data report to anyone desiring it. Important data could be published on microcards by the Archives of Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

Other papers read

The Commissary Component: A Fort Ancient Site. JOHN M. HARTMAN, Ball State University.

Interim Report of White Site. MARY FRAN LENHART, Ball State University.