

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chairman: JOHN M. HARTMAN, Indianapolis, Indiana 46200

JACK M. WHITEHEAD, Department of Anthropology,
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was elected Chairman for 1974

ABSTRACTS

Ahuili: A Rite of Reversal among the Eastern Nahua of the Huasteca Region of Northern Veracruz, Mexico. PAUL J. PROVOST, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.—A calendrical ritual that takes place among the Nahua Indians of the Huasteca Region of Northern Veracruz was reported. An ethnographic description of the Nahua was based upon 12 months of anthropological fieldwork recently completed among them by the author. The report was presented in three parts. The first was a brief ethnographic description of the basic elements of Nahua culture and social organization, and included the central features or principles of behavior that form the pattern of Nahua culture. The second consisted of an account of a ceremony or ritual, called *Ahuili*, including how the ritual is performed and how it serves to reverse the normal order of daily life and the basic principles of the cultural order. The final part was a discussion of the function and significance that this rite of cultural reversal has for Nahua culture, as well as for culture theory in general.

Ceramics of the Multi-Component Farrand Site, Vigo County, Indiana. ROBERT E. PACE and GARY APFELSTADT, Department of Anthropology, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana 47809.—Salvage excavation around a commercial gravel pit has recovered information on a multi-component village site near the Greenfield Bayou in southwest Vigo County. Ceramic analyses have identified Early, Middle and Late Woodland components, although the major occupation was by Indians of the Mississippian Vincennes Culture. Woodland ceramics are more closely related to those known to the north and west. They include Marion Thick, Havana Tradition and Albee Culture sherds. Vincennes Culture sherds frequently combine Woodland and Mississippian features. Carbon-14 dates identify early Vincennes refuse pits from around A.D. 800, and later ones containing carbonized corn and beans, around A.D. 1100.

Cultural Marginality of the Alto Caquetá. GARY L. BROUILLARD, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.—Recent investigations in the Alto Caquetá drainage (Colombia) provide data suggesting that Steward's classification of the northwest Amazon as a distinct sub-area of the Tropical Forest has considerable time depth. Ceramics recovered from 23 sites during the summer of 1973 show regional diversity within a generalized tradition which has little similarity to known Amazonian ceramic complexes. Ceramics of

the Alto Caquetá are predominantly decorated by plastic techniques which emphasize angular design elements. A very small amount of bichrome pottery is also present at three sites. In view of the geographical proximity of the Alto Caquetá to the Rio Napo and the central Amazon, the lack of ceramics belonging to the polychrome tradition suggests that the area was marginal to at least some of the major influences which shaped Tropical Forest cultures.

An Argument for the Use of Probability Testing in Defining Vegetation Zones in Archaeological Reconstructions. VAN A. REIDHEAD, Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401 and JOSEPH E. SCOTT, Department of Sociology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.—This study examined the explicit assumption made in some archaeological vegetation reconstructions that vegetal resources will vary significantly between different physiographic zones in a given region. Using data from southeastern Indiana and southwestern Ohio, this assumption was worked into hypothesis form and tested. The methodology employed in testing was statistical and probabilistic in nature.

OTHER PAPERS READ

Excavations at Wilbur Wright State Memorial: Techniques of Historical Archaeology. JOHN M. HARTMAN, Indianapolis, Indiana 46200.

The Commissary Site: Completion of Excavations at an Early Late Woodland Cemetery. H. CREE NEWBOLD, CHARLES A. ANDERSON and B. K. SWARTZ, JR., Department of Anthropology, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306.

A Report of an Archaeological Site Survey of Spiceland Township in Henry County, Indiana. H. CREE NEWBOLD and B. K. SWARTZ, JR., Department of Anthropology, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306.