

However, until the lower level sherds, pipes, and other materials are adequately described, the full significance of this important excavation must still remain in doubt.

WILLIAM DUNCAN STRONG  
Bureau of American Ethnology

#### STOPPERS OR MODELING TOOLS

In *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*, Vol. 2, p. 137, Mr. T. J. Dillingham asks for opinions as to use of the toadstool-shaped pottery implements described and pictured by W. H. Holmes in his work on *Aboriginal Pottery of Eastern United States*.<sup>153</sup>

Identical toadstool-shaped objects of pottery are used by the Cocopa, Diegueño, and Kiliwa Indians of Lower California as "anvils" when "paddling" the plastic walls of pottery vessels in the course of manufacture. Potters of Oudh and the Northwest Provinces of India use similarly shaped pottery anvils,<sup>154</sup> as do also the Ao Naga of Assam.<sup>155</sup>

In view of these modern examples of the use of toadstool-shaped pottery objects, it seems likely that those from Mississippi Valley sites were similarly used, as Dr. Holmes suggested.

E. W. GIFFORD  
Department of Anthropology  
University of California

#### ORGANIZED AMATEUR STUDENTS

In an article published a few months ago in *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*, attention was called to the large numbers of amateur archaeologists who, because of a lack of organization or knowledge, were engaged in a wholesale destruction of archaeological material in the New England area. The article also suggested a plan for standardizing the mapping of sites and numbering the implements recovered from them. Since that time great progress has been made toward organizing these collectors and in standardizing field methods and cataloging in this area. Apparently the purpose of my contentions is about to be justified by definite action in the right direction.

The amateur archaeologists at Attleboro and vicinity have formed an association which they have called "The Wampanoag Archaeological Society." The objects of this society are best stated by quoting from their By-Laws: "to foster and promote the study of archaeology in this area and the collection and preservation of Indian artifacts for historical and archaeological purposes."

<sup>153</sup> B A E-R 20: 35-36, 1903.

<sup>154</sup> H. R. C. Dobbs, *The Pottery and Glass Industries of the North-West Provinces and Oudh*, *Jour. Indian Art*, 7: 4, pl. 58, 1897.

<sup>155</sup> J. P. Mills, *The Ao Nagas* (London, Macmillan and Co., Ltd.), 95, 1926.

There are at present thirty members in this society, and we hope that this number will eventually be doubled. I anticipate the enrollment of all of these men in the near future as affiliates in the Society for American Archaeology.

To digress for a moment from the subject, let me offer the suggestion that the Society for American Archaeology provide for the organization of local chapters. We have here the nucleus of such a chapter, meeting monthly, organized and ready for absorption by a national group.

Dr. Byers' system of standardized mapping has been adopted with enthusiasm by the Wampanoag Society, over two hundred sites having been already located and assigned designations under that system. As there is estimated to be over 50,000 Indian implements in the collections of this group, the task of reclassifying and redesignating under this system is a tedious one, and will not be completed for some time. When it is available, however, we hope that it will be of value to archaeologists operating in the New England area.

As a further illustration of the value of such an organized group to the profession of archaeology, I should like to offer the following illustration. A few days ago a letter from Dr. Byers requested information on a type of implement called a "chopper." I sent immediately what little data I had, based on sixteen implements in my own collection. Not contented with this, we determined to test the worth of our organization. A description of the particular implement in question was drawn up and mimeographed. Copies were sent to each member of the group with a request for data from their individual collections. Ten days have passed since these requests were mailed; I have received to date data on 1,614 specimens, about eighty per cent of which can be definitely located on sites shown in our map system and thus tied in with associated material. 1,110 specimens have been assembled for study and photographing, which will be done within the next few weeks. The results will be sent to Dr. Byers for his information and the material will be available for his study should he desire it.

We do not believe that the Attleboro group is any exception, but that what has been done here can be duplicated in all areas. Cooperation between amateurs and professionals will produce results.

MAURICE ROBBINS  
Attleboro, Massachusetts

#### THE USE OF THE THUMB-SCRAPER

The article, *The Indian Spoon*, by Mr. Irwin W. Cox, in the April issue of this journal is timely since it brings the subject to attention. Mr. Cox offers his reasons for limiting the use of the so-called thumb-scrappers to extracting marrow from bones. As long as primitive man left no written records of the use of tools and implements, it does require much reasoning and logic in trying to solve some of the problems confronting the students of archaeology.

I think Mr. Cox omitted entirely the main and very practical use of the thumb-scrappers, that of abrading the innumerable wooden articles that primi-