

E

51

.U55

60th

1942-43

NUNC COGNOSCO EX PARTE



THOMAS J. BATA LIBRARY
TRENT UNIVERSITY

Sixtieth Annual Report

of the

UREAU OF AMERICAN
ETHNOLOGY

8

1942-1943



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

D. C.

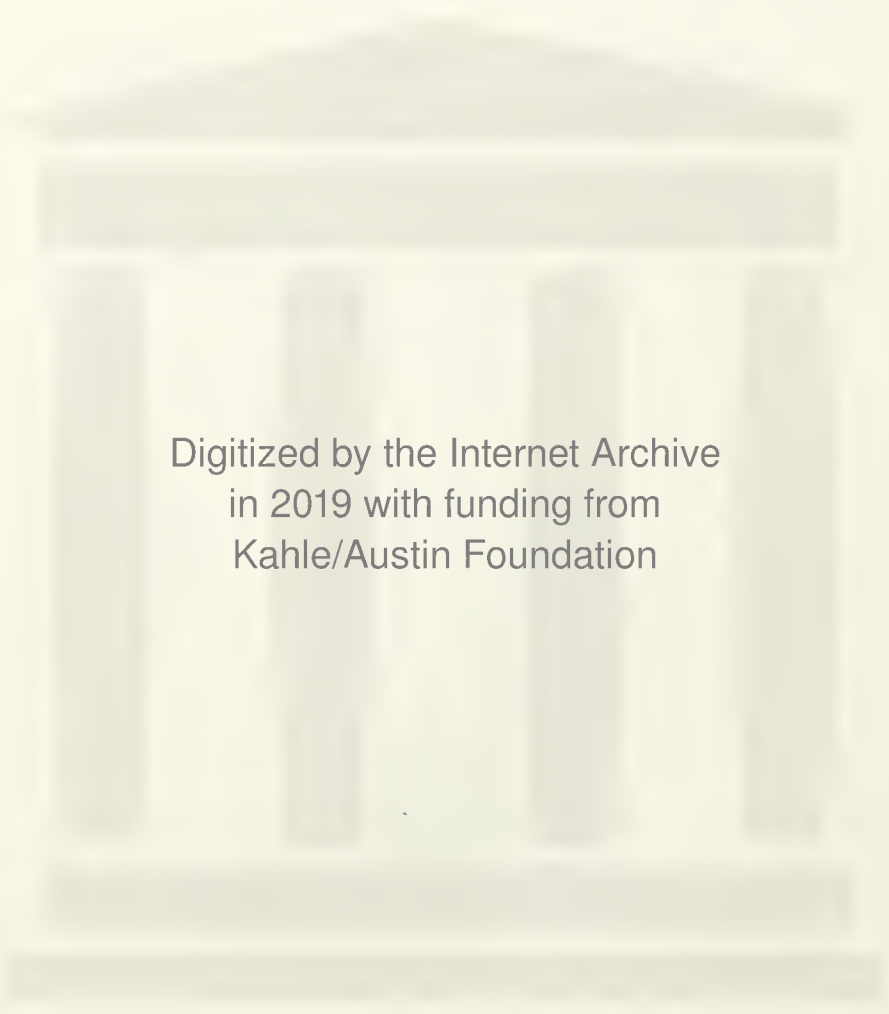
SIXTIETH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
BUREAU OF
AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

1942-1943



UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1944



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2019 with funding from
Kahle/Austin Foundation

SIXTIETH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

M. W. STIRLING, CHIEF

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report on the field researches, office work, and other operations of the Bureau of American Ethnology during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1943, conducted in accordance with the act of Congress of June 27, 1942, which provides “* * * for continuing ethnological researches among the American Indians and the natives of Hawaii and the excavation and preservation of archeologic remains. * * *”

During the fiscal year, activities concerned with the other American republics have been emphasized, and the energies of various staff members of the Bureau have been directed to an increasing extent to projects bearing on the war effort. In particular, members of the Bureau staff have cooperated with the Ethnogeographic Board in preparing information for the armed services, and it is expected that efforts in this direction will increase as the war continues.

SYSTEMATIC RESEARCHES

On January 13, 1943, M. W. Stirling, Chief of the Bureau, left Washington on the fifth National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution archeological expedition to southern Mexico. Excavations were continued at the site of La Venta in southern Tabasco and resulted in the discovery of numerous new details of construction of the rectangular stone-fenced enclosure, one of the central features of the site. Three rich burials of important personages were uncovered containing offerings principally of jade of unusually high quality. Two mosaic floors in the form of jaguar masks made of polished green serpentine were discovered, one at a depth of more than 20 feet. During the course of the work an exploration trip was made up the Rio de las Playas, one of the headwater streams of the Tonalá River, in order to verify the existence of a ruin in this vicinity. The collections obtained during the course of excavations at La Venta were shipped to the National Museum in Mexico City. Mr. Stirling was assisted throughout the season by Dr. Waldo R. Wedel, of the division of archeology of the United States National Museum.

During the course of the fiscal year Mr. Stirling contributed to the War Background Studies of the Smithsonian Institution an article entitled “Native Peoples of New Guinea,” which was published as

No. 9 of that series. He also contributed several articles to the Ethnogeographic Board for distribution to the armed forces. During the year Mr. Stirling's paper entitled "Origin Myth of Acoma and Other Records" was issued as Bulletin 135 of the Bureau.

Dr. John R. Swanton, ethnologist, devoted a considerable portion of the year to the reading and correcting of galley and page proof of his work entitled "The Indians of the Southeastern United States," which is being published as Bulletin 137 of the Bureau. This will be a volume of approximately 850 pages exclusive of the index.

Some further work was done on the materials preserved from the now extinct language of the Timucua Indians of Florida, but it was decided to discontinue this for the present. These materials—consisting of a catalog of Timucua words and English-Timucua index to the same, photocopies of the religious works in Timucua and Spanish printed in Mexico in the seventeenth century, and typed copies of these with some interlinear translation—have been labeled carefully and placed in the manuscript vault.

Time was also devoted to the extraction of ethnographical notes from the volumes of *Early Western Travels*, edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites. A paper entitled "Are Wars Inevitable?" was contributed as No. 12 to the War Background Studies of the Smithsonian Institution. A few investigations were undertaken for the Board on Geographical Names, of which Dr. Swanton is a member.

Dr. John P. Harrington, ethnologist, was occupied during the first part of the year in an investigation of the Chilcotin languages of northern California. The results of this work indicated that Chilcotin was introduced into California from Canada in pre-European times, but owing to the varying rate in time reckoning for the accomplishment of linguistic changes, the length of Chilcotin occupancy in California cannot be estimated. With the exception of a small area south of the mouth of the Klamath River, Chilcotin occupies the entire coastal region of northern California to the mouth of Usal Creek in Mendocino County. In addition to the linguistic connections discovered, local traditions were obtained linking the Chilcotin peoples with a more northern group. Two separate stories were recorded deriving the Hupa from the region north of the mouth of the Klamath River, and one was obtained deriving the Indians of a part of the Eel River drainage from the Hupa region.

Since his return to Washington, Dr. Harrington has been engaged in the preparation of material for the linguistic section of the *Handbook of South American Indians*. This work resulted in the discovery that Witoto is Tupí-Guaraní, and also the very interesting finding that Quechua is Hokan. The Hokan hitherto had been known to extend only to the Subtiaba language of the west coast of Central America. Detailed studies of Quechua and of Cocama have been made

for the purpose of making comparisons with other South American languages and with a view to discerning possible further linguistic affiliations. In addition to this work, Dr. Harrington has also made an extensive study of the grammar of the Jivaro language of South America.

At the beginning of the fiscal year Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., senior archeologist, was engaged in prospecting and testing an interesting site in the Agate Basin, on a tributary of the Cheyenne River between Lusk and Newcastle, in eastern Wyoming. Dr. Roberts had been sent to make preliminary investigations at this location, despite the general policy of no regular field work for the duration of the war, because of the possibility that much information might be lost as a result of erosive activities in the area and from disturbance of the deposits by amateur collectors hunting for specimens. The site gave evidence of having been the scene of a bison kill on the edges of a marsh or meadow. Animal bones and artifacts were found in a stratum that breaks out of the bank some 20 feet above the bottom of an eroding gully. This layer is covered by an overburden that deepens rapidly as it is followed back into the bank, and at a depth of 4 feet, where the tests were terminated, was still continuing. All the bones found, of which there were many, proved to be modern bison. Associated with these were projectile points, which, although they suggest an affinity with the Collateral Yuma type—a form that has been considered relatively early in the Plains area—nevertheless do not have all the significant characteristics of that type. The points have unhesitatingly been called Yuma by numerous people who have examined them, and there is no question of their belonging in that general category, although they should not be considered classic forms. All the points found at the site are consistent in pattern, yet have a considerable range in size. In the seventy-some points or large and easily identified fragments found there, no shouldered, barbed, or tanged forms appear. The material unquestionably represents a cultural unit without intrusions from other sources. Dr. Roberts dug 32 examples out of undisturbed deposits. The remaining specimens are in the collections of local residents, who picked them up as they weathered out of the gully bank. Only a few end and side scrapers have been found, probably because of the fact that the camp proper has not yet been located, but they are typical of those associated with the so-called early hunting complexes. Geologic studies have not yet been made of the deposits. They indicate some antiquity, but that they are not as old as the age formerly postulated for Yuma remains is demonstrated by the fact that the bison represented are all modern forms. It is hoped that when present conditions are over, the site can be

thoroughly excavated and detailed studies made of the material. The site was found by William Spencer, of Spencer, Wyo., and was reported to the Smithsonian Institution by Robert E. Frison, deputy game warden, Wyoming State Game and Fish Commission of Newcastle. Permission for the investigations was granted by Leonard E. Davis, owner of the land.

Leaving Newcastle, Wyo., on August 1, Dr. Roberts proceeded to Tucumcari and San Jon, N. Mex., for the purpose of disposing of some of the equipment stored there at the close of the 1941 season and arranging for storage of the remainder for the duration.

On his return to Washington, Dr. Roberts resumed his office activities. Galley and page proofs were read for his report, "Archeological and Geological Investigations in the San Jon District, Eastern New Mexico," which appeared in the Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, volume 103, No. 4. Manuscript was prepared and galley and page proofs were read for a paper entitled "Egypt and the Suez Canal," which was published as No. 11 in the Smithsonian Institution War Background Studies. By request, an article, "Evidence for a Paleo-Indian in the New World," was written for the *Acta Americana*, an international quarterly review published by the Inter-American Society of Anthropology and Geography. During the period from October 1 to June 30 a series of survival articles was prepared from data furnished by members of the Smithsonian staff. These articles were made available to the armed forces through the office of the Ethnogeographic Board. Dr. Roberts devoted considerable time to the task of gathering this information from the Institution's authorities in the various fields of science and working it into articles for general reading. He also furnished information on various subjects in response to requests from numerous members of the armed services. At the close of the fiscal year he was engaged in assisting in the preparation of a survival manual for the Ethnogeographic Board.

On April 1, 1943, Dr. Roberts was designated as Acting Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology whenever the Chief, by reason of absence, illness, or other cause, is unable to discharge the duties of his position.

Dr. Julian H. Steward, anthropologist, continued his activities as editor of the *Handbook of South American Indians*, one of the Smithsonian projects conducted under funds transferred from the State Department for "Cooperation with the American Republics." He also prepared a number of articles for publication in the *Handbook*. The *Handbook*, which is three-fourths completed, will consist of four volumes of text and a two-volume bibliography. Material has been contributed to it by 100 specialists on the Indian tribes of Central and South America and the Antilles.

Dr. Steward took an active part in the creation of the Inter-American Society of Anthropology and Geography, the purpose of which is the development of cooperative anthropological and geographic research. Dr. Ralph L. Beals was appointed to take over the work of organizing and developing the society. The society has approximately 700 members throughout the Americas, and the first issue of its quarterly journal, *Acta Americana*, was in press at the close of the fiscal year.

Plans were developed for cooperative Institutes of Social Anthropology to assist in training students and in carrying on field work in the other American republics.

Dr. Steward served as a member of committees concerned with cooperative work in the field of inter-American relations and was a member of the Board of Governors of the National Indian Institute of the United States. He also represented the Smithsonian Institution at the inauguration of Dr. Everett Needham Case as president of Colgate University.

Dr. Alfred Métraux, ethnologist, continued his work as assistant to Dr. Julian H. Steward in preparing the Handbook of South American Indians. In addition to editing materials furnished by other contributors, Dr. Métraux completed a large amount of manuscript material of his own for use in the Handbook. Through an arrangement with the National University of Mexico, Dr. Métraux went to Mexico City to teach from March until the end of the fiscal year. During the year Dr. Métraux's paper entitled "The Native Tribes of Eastern Bolivia and Western Matto Grosso" was issued as Bulletin 134 of the Bureau.

During the fiscal year Dr. Henry B. Collins, Jr., ethnologist, was engaged in work relating to the war, for the most part in connection with the Ethnogeographic Board. Early in July 1942 Dr. Collins was detailed by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and by the Chief of the Bureau to assist in handling requests for regional and other information received by the Ethnogeographic Board from the armed services and other war agencies. On February 28, 1943, he was elected Assistant Director of the Board and in this capacity continued in charge of research relating to the above-mentioned requests.

At the beginning of the fiscal year Dr. William N. Fenton, associate anthropologist, was engaged, at the request of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, in a brief field trip among the Seneca Indians on the Cornplanter Grant in northwestern Pennsylvania. The object of this work was to collect Indian geographic names and traditions on hunting and fishing along the Allegheny River.

Following his return to Washington, Dr. Fenton devoted most of his time during the remainder of the year to projects received

by the Ethnogeographic Board from the armed services and other war agencies. One of the results of his work has been a strategic file of personnel in the United States familiar with foreign countries. Growing out of the Roster of Personnel, World Travel, and Special Knowledge Available to War Agencies at the Smithsonian Institution, as first compiled by the Smithsonian War Committee early in 1942, the present World File of Regional Specialists at the Ethnogeographic Board now includes over 2,500 names of individuals, their travel and special knowledge. Cross-indexed by name, as well as by country, this index has enabled the Director of the Board to locate promptly any person in response to requests from the armed forces for authorities who might possess unusual information, photographs, maps, and knowledge of languages of a given area. Certain officers as well as civilian specialists have returned repeatedly to the Smithsonian building to consult this file. In recognition of this work, in February Dr. Fenton was elected a research associate of the Ethnogeographic Board.

At the request of the War Department, Office of Chief of Engineers, to the Institution, Dr. Fenton delivered a lecture on "The Nature and Diversity of Human Culture" to a class in Psychology of Administration.

Dr. Fenton has continued membership on the Smithsonian War Committee, acting as its secretary.

Work on the Indian place names of western New York and western Pennsylvania has continued by correspondence with Messrs. M. H. Deardorff, Warren, Pa., and Chas. E. Congdon, of Salamanca, N. Y. At the end of the fiscal year, another correspondent, Dr. Elizabeth L. Moore, of Meredith College, had about completed the translation of J. F. Lafitau's *Moeurs des Sauvages Américains* (2 vols., Paris, 1724), a project reported last year.

Publications for the year include: Songs from the Iroquois Longhouse: Program Notes for an Album of American Indian Music from the Eastern Woodlands, published jointly by the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress as vol. 6 of Folk Music of the United States (Archive of American Folk Song); Contacts between Iroquois Herbalism and Colonial Medicine, *in* Smithsonian Report for 1941; Last Seneca Pigeon Hunts, *in* Warren County Pennsylvania Almanac, 1943; and Fish Drives among the Cornplanter Seneca, *in* Pennsylvania Archaeologist; also several book reviews in professional and other journals. At the close of the fiscal year, the paper entitled "The Last Passenger Pigeon Hunts of the Cornplanter Senecas," which had been prepared with M. H. Deardorff for the Anthropological Papers of the Bureau, had been accepted for publication in the Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

In December 1942 Dr. Philip Drucker, assistant ethnologist, received a commission in the United States Naval Reserve and was granted a military furlough. Dr. Drucker had spent the preceding portion of the fiscal year in preparing final reports on archeological work previously conducted in Mexico by the National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution archeological expeditions. These reports, in press at the end of the fiscal year, will appear as Bulletins of the Bureau.

SPECIAL RESEARCHES

Miss Frances Densmore, a collaborator of the Bureau, continued work on the study of Indian music by completing two large manuscripts—Seminole Music, and Music of Acoma, Isleta, Cochiti, and Zuñi Pueblos. She also devoted considerable time to a study of the traces of foreign influences in the music of the American Indians. During a portion of the year she was engaged in writing a handbook of the Smithsonian-Densmore collection of sound recordings of American Indian music for the National Archives.

Miss Densmore presented to the Bureau a record of her field work on Indian music and customs for the Bureau from 1907 to 1941, and completed the bibliography of her writings on that subject. She also presented the original phonograph record of a speech in the Ute language by the famous Ute chief Red Cap, made in 1916, and a similar record of a speech in the Yuma language by Kacora, made in 1922, with accompanying information.

In 1943 Miss Densmore completes 50 years' study of the music, customs, and history of the American Indians.

EDITORIAL WORK AND PUBLICATIONS

The editorial work of the Bureau continued during the year under the immediate direction of the editor, M. Helen Palmer. There were issued one Annual Report and three Bulletins, as follows:

Fifty-ninth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1941-1942. 12 pp.

Bulletin 132. Source material on the history and ethnology of the Caddo Indians, by John R. Swanton. 332 pp., 19 pls., 5 text figs.

Bulletin 134. The native tribes of eastern Bolivia and western Matto Grosso, by Alfred Métraux. 182 pp., 5 pls., 1 text fig.

Bulletin 135. Origin myth of Acoma and other records, by Matthew W. Stirling. 123 pp., 17 pls., 8 text figs.

The following Bulletins were in press at the close of the fiscal year:

Bulletin 133. Anthropological papers, numbers 19-26:

No. 19. A search for songs among the Chitimacha Indians in Louisiana, by Frances Densmore.

- No. 20. Archeological survey on the northern Northwest Coast, by Philip Drucker. With appendix, Early vertebrate fauna of the British Columbia Coast, by Edna M. Fisher.
- No. 21. Some notes on a few sites in Beaufort County, South Carolina, by Regina Flannery.
- No. 22. An analysis and interpretation of the ceramic remains from two sites near Beaufort, South Carolina, by James B. Griffin.
- No. 23. The eastern Cherokees, by William Harlan Gilbert, Jr.
- No. 24. Aconite poison whaling in Asia and America: An Aleutian transfer to the New World, by Robert F. Heizer.
- No. 25. The Carrier Indians of the Bulkley River: Their social and religious life, by Diamond Jenness.
- No. 26. The quipu and Peruvian civilization, by John R. Swanton.
- Bulletin 136. Anthropological papers, numbers 27-32:
- No. 27. Music of the Indians of British Columbia, by Frances Densmore.
- No. 28. Choctaw music, by Frances Densmore.
- No. 29. Some ethnological data concerning one hundred Yucatan plants, by Morris Steggerda.
- No. 30. A description of thirty towns in Yucatan, Mexico, by Morris Steggerda.
- No. 31. Some western Shoshoni myths, by Julian H. Steward.
- No. 32. New material from Acoma, by Leslie A. White.
- Bulletin 137. The Indians of the southeastern United States, by John R. Swanton.
- Bulletin 138. Stone monuments of southern Mexico, by Matthew W. Stirling.
- Bulletin 139. An introduction to the ceramics of Tres Zapotes, Veraacruz, Mexico, by C. W. Weiant.
- Bulletin 140. Ceramic sequences at Tres Zapotes, Veraacruz, Mexico, by Philip Drucker.
- Bulletin 141. Ceramic stratigraphy at Cerro de las Mesas, by Philip Drucker.
- Bulletin 142. The contemporary culture of the Cáhita Indians, by Ralph L. Beals.

Publications distributed totaled 10,793.

LIBRARY

Accessions during the fiscal year totaled 321. There has been a sharp decrease in all classes of accessions, owing to reduced funds in the case of purchases and to war conditions in the case of gifts and exchanges.

The Library of Congress cards for nonserial matter on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year, amounting to several thousand, have been prepared and filed. Cards for foreign periodicals and society transactions have been prepared and filed, including shelf-list cards. A record of holdings appears on each of these shelf-list entries and some are now in their permanent form.

Several thousand pamphlets, including a number of valuable ones pertaining to the Indian Territory and the Five Civilized Tribes, were reclassified and reshelved.

The library has been much in use as a source of material for the Ethnogeographic Board and the war agencies.

ILLUSTRATIONS

During the year E. G. Cassedy, illustrator, continued the preparation of illustrations, maps, and drawings for the publications of the Bureau and for those of other branches of the Institution.

COLLECTIONS

Collections transferred by the Bureau of American Ethnology to the department of anthropology, United States National Museum, during the fiscal year were as follows:

*Accession
number*

162682. Archeological materials collected at Tres Zapotes, Tuxtla District, southern Veracruz, Mexico, during the winters of 1938-39 and 1939-40 by the National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution expedition under M. W. Stirling. (1,359 specimens.)
163712. 14 ethnological specimens originally obtained by C. Spencer from the Payamino Indians, eastern Ecuador, and 3 archeological specimens from excavations along the Napo River in the vicinity of Eden, Ecuador. (17 specimens.)
165123. Stone ax blade and 5 bark-cloth dance masks collected by Dr. Irving Goldman from the Kobeua (Cubeo) Indians, southeastern Colombia. (6 specimens.)

MISCELLANEOUS

During the course of the year information was furnished by members of the Bureau staff in reply to numerous inquiries concerning the North American Indians, both past and present, and the Mexican peoples of the prehistoric and early historic periods. Various specimens sent to the Bureau were identified and data on them furnished for their owners.

Personnel.—Indefinite furloughs for military service were granted to Dr. Philip Drucker and Walter B. Greenwood on December 31, 1942, and January 15, 1943, respectively; Miss Nancy A. Link was appointed editorial clerk in connection with the preparation of the Handbook of South American Indians on August 15, 1942, by transfer from the Bureau, and resigned on January 23, 1943; Mrs. Eloise B. Edelen was appointed editorial assistant on August 24, 1942, on the Bureau roll; John E. Anglim was appointed senior illustrator for the Handbook on August 12, 1942, and resigned on April 21, 1943, to be inducted into the Army; Mrs. Verne E. Samson was appointed editorial clerk for the Handbook on December 22, 1942; Mrs. Ruth S. Abramson resigned as assistant clerk-stenographer on May 28, 1943.

Respectfully submitted.

M. W. STIRLING, *Chief.*

DR. C. G. ABBOT,
Secretary, Smithsonian Institution.



