



attributed to charcoal obtained at what seemed to be campfire sites in Nevada and Texas. On the basis of cultural evidence from Siberia and Alaska, the British think that the first New World immigrants crossed over from Northwest Asia during the period of 15,000 to 19,000 years ago. They think that possibly an excessive age may have been washed into the samples.

According to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History, United States archaeologists fully accept the apparent 40,000 year old age of the Texas and Nevada charcoals. Whether or not the Jericho work has any bearing on the U. S. dating would seem to depend on the specific conditions of the U. S. samples.

M. H.

Editorial Comment: It would appear from the above that we have a case where experts do not necessarily agree. It may easily be that a preconceived notion on the date might have colored Prof. Zeuner's approach. In the seven years since Dr. Libby initiated the Carbon dating, there have been continuous refinements. Until further information substantiates Prof. Zeuner's reported flaw, it is believed that the present radio-carbon dating method is sound within its normal anticipated error percentage.

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#### INDIAN METHOD OF GETTING AND KEEPING A WIFE

An old Indian, who for many years had lived a great deal of his life among the white settlers of Pennsylvania, observed one day that the Indian method of getting a wife was much easier than the way the white man secured one; and was more certain of getting a good one. He said, "White man court - court - court maybe one year - maybe two year, then he marry. Maybe he get a good wife - maybe not - maybe very cross. Well, now, suppose cross. Scold so soon as get awake in the morning. Scold all day. Scold until sleep. All one - he must keep him. White people law forbid throw away wife - just 'cause he cross. Must keep him always. How do Indian do? Indian when he see industrious squaw which he like, he go to him, put his two fore-fingers close aside each other, make two look like one - look squaw in the face - see him smile - which is all one he say Yes, so he take him home. No danger he be cross. Squaw know too well what Indian do if he cross - throw him away and take another one, Squaw love to eat meat. No husband - no meat. Squaw do everything to please husband. He do same to please squaw. Live happy all the time.

M. H.

Editorial Comment: (?)

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Amateurs have since the beginning been the worst destroyers of archaeology - destroyers of the important history of mankind. For some uncomprehended reason, their blood runs to "collecting", to commercialism, and to just plain destruction.

When the richly artifacted (don't check me on that one!) lake villages were found in Switzerland, the amateur collectors flocked and ruthlessly pillaged - they could sell the artifacts more profitably than they could work. No records were kept; nothing was done properly. It was about 1880 before the Swiss government awoke to the terrible destruction and hastily passed a law. So the trend turned to the manufacture and sale of spurious relics - until wholesale arrests and convictions put an end to that.

On the other hand, amateurs began the science of archaeology - and some of them were men above men! Jakob Messikommer, for example, was a poor Swiss farmer who walked two miles to the village to get the local doctor's paper so he could read it on the return trip. And he borrowed books from the good doctor. He heard about lake dwellings and began to watch as he cut peat in an old dried lake bed. One day he hit pay dirt! For the next fifty-odd years, until he was well into the eighties, this lowly farmer spent far more time than he could afford laying out careful plots in the peat, working out stratigraphic techniques (which were then new), digging, recording, working out the pre-history of the lake dwellers. In 1867, this poor, unlettered farmer was granted an honorary doctorate by the University of Zurich.

Early archaeology was having a lot of trouble getting sequences straightened out. Alfred Rust, who left school because of poverty at the age of fifteen and began his apprenticeship to an electrician in his town of Hamburg, Germany, heard about archaeological problems, became interested, and decided he could straighten some of them out. And, since he "possessed a little spare cash and a bicycle", as he said, he made a little trip of 2800 miles to Syria. And he excavated and identified 45 consecutive stratified levels of occupation in a cave - from ice age to agriculture! The poor apprentice boy wound up with an honorary degree and a permanent research position on the staff of Kiel University.

One could go on citing the records of brilliant amateurs, such as Jens Jacob Asmussen Worsaae, who as a schoolboy volunteer began cataloging artifacts in a museum in the year 1836. He became the first full-time professional archaeologist and dug and dined with kings in a really amazing golden age of archaeology.

But not the least of these were four boys, fifteen years old, the difficult teenage we hear about. September 12, 1940, they discovered Lascaux, now widely known as the cave of the greatest cave paintings in France. They notified the proper authorities, then pitched a tent by the cave and defied all visitors day and night until the proper authorities could take over. That is amateur archaeology at its extreme best.

So, we have faith in the amateurs. Just give us the knowledge. This means well-knit societies, and money in the treasuries for good publications. As Sequoya said, the white man's greatest gift is his ability to "put things down on paper so they keep".

D.J.

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The Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains has written us the letter quoted below. It is suggested that personal letters written by our members to Congress might actually effect the receipt of more attention for archaeology in this area.

"Dear Sir,

The question of appropriations for archaeological research and salvage is now before Congress. It would be most helpful if you and others representing your organization would write your Senators and Representatives and express your viewpoint in support of this work.

It is our feeling that since federal projects such as reservoir construction, airfields, and highways are destroying our archaeological heritage that it is also a federal responsibility to salvage this information before it is lost. In fact, this responsibility has been recognized in the past by Congress in its appropriations for the Inter-Agency Archaeological Salvage Program. Actually an appropriation of only 1/10 of 1 percent of the construction costs of these federal projects would provide for a fair amount of archaeological research and salvage in the areas affected.

This program is carried out under the supervision of the National Park Service in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution and through contracts with Universities and Museums of the various states who have competent staffs to supervise the actual field and laboratory work. The budget which is before Congress now, covering work for the coming fiscal year, represents at least a minimum of 61 projects in 37 states.

Although this program has been sadly underfinanced in the past, a considerable amount of excellent work has been accomplished as evidenced by numerous published reports on the work in specific areas. I am mailing you 2 copies of "A Report of Progress" which has just come off the press and covers the work in Missouri during the years 1955 and 1956. While this was written for use within the state, it should be of interest to Congress since much of the work accomplished has been financed as part of the federal program and is tangible evidence of results obtained for the money expended.

If you have a report of work from your area, there is no doubt that your members of Congress would be interested in receiving a copy. However, if you do not have a report of this kind and want additional copies of "A Report of Progress" to mail, let me know and I will send them to you.

P. S. Senator Lister Hill is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.  
HWH

Sincerely,  
/s/ Henry W. Hamilton  
Secretary"

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The Eastern States Archaeological Confederation has invited all of our members to attend the annual meeting to be held in Baltimore on November 9th and 10th. It is suggested that members get together and perhaps we could arrange to have a delegation attend this meeting.

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As a result of two programs presented by our President and Dan Josselyn, substituting for Dick Howard's excellent program "Art for Everyone", the Birmingham Area Educational TV Station has requested the Alabama State Archaeological Society and the Birmingham Anthropological Society to put on a program for thirteen weeks. These are to be one-half hour programs, and at this point it can only be said that the work involved will be very considerable. It will take cooperation, probably from all of our members, to obtain artifacts for visual displays, to obtain members to speak, and to assemble the detail that will be required for each of the programs. As a result of this it is firmly believed a good forward step towards influencing people throughout the State and interesting them in the fields of Archaeology and Anthropology will be taken.

A preliminary meeting was held Wednesday, May 8 in Birmingham to outline the general program. A final meeting for firming up the program will be held May 15 at the All State Restuarant in Cullman, Alabama. Those of you who can attend this evening meeting and can contribute items are urgently requested to get in touch with Mr. James Wilkinson, Phone No. 57-1549, and make arrangements to attend. This will be a joint meeting with members from Decatur and Huntsville.

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Do not forget to bring yourself and your friends to the May 14th meeting where Dr. Carl Miller, Archaeologist for the Smithsonian, will give a talk on his excavation in Russell Cave. This meeting is one we have all been looking forward to, and Dr. Miller's props, consisting of unusually excellent National Geographic made slides, will be used. The meeting is at 8:00 P. M. at the Birmingham City Hall in the Art Museum.

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**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

**We all make footprints on the sands of time; some leave  
the imprint of a great soul; others, just the mark of a heel.**