

PNW 317
1st

[1st NWAC]

REPORT OF MEETING OF NORTHWEST ANTHROPOLOGISTS
Portland, Oregon, May 8, 1948

The meeting was held in the Faculty Club, Reed College. Dr. Peter Odegard, President of Reed, welcomed the visitors and expressed his deep interest in Anthropology. Dr. Luther Cressman was elected chairman.

Morning Session

Reports of field work, research and publications in progress.

University of British Columbia: No members present.

Dr. Erna Gunther and Robert Lane reported that Dr. Borden is engaged in a meticulous excavation of shell mounds in Vancouver. Dr. Hawthorn is planning to work this summer on a Fraser River site twenty miles from Vancouver with the cooperation of the Canadian geological survey. He also plans an acculturation study and ethnographic survey in the Lillooet district.

University of Washington:

Dr. Gunther has completed a paper on the Shaker religion which will appear as an American Ethnological Society monograph. She is now working on designs on Plateau clothing and the connections with Plains designs. Dr. Gunther reported that the relations between Northeast Asia and Northwest America were occupying the attention of faculty and students cooperating with the Far East Department of the University. Graduate students are working on small projects that will fit into the general interest. Harriet Blowers is studying ethno-zoology of the Snoqualmie; Robert Lane, the legal background of Canadian Indians migrating to Puget Sound for berry picking; Elizabeth Gervais, Indian migrant labor in Western Washington; and Richard Daugherty, a survey of archaeological sites in western Washington.

Mr. Carroll Burroughs reported that plans are complete for continuation of archaeological work at Cattle Point, San Juan Islands. Twenty students will receive introductory and advanced training in field work.

Dr. Verne Ray reported on his trip to Mexico last summer where he visited archaeological sites and consulted with anthropologists. He emphasized that direction of graduate majors research is an important part of the current program.

Dr. Viola Garfield reported a completed sketch of Lyak, Tlingit and Haida cultures for the Encyclopedia Arctica; a description of Tsimshian culture for the American Ethnological Society and a book on totem poles of southeastern Alaska, in press (University of Washington). In progress is a detailed study of monumental wood sculpture of the Northwest Coast.

Dr. Melville Jacobs is working on a representative, annotated collection of myths and tales of the Northwest, which will include unpublished material he and his wife have collected.

Mr. William Elmendorf's Twana ethnography will be completed this summer.

Dr. Paul Kirchhoff's immediate interest is in 'operation horseshoe' and the direction of students' research in northwest coast-eastern Asiatic relationships.

University of Washington (cont.)

Peter Kilburn reported on the recently formed Asiatic Pacific Seminar which includes students from the Anthropology and Far East Departments. Papers have been presented on a bibliography of Korean archeology; a compilation of Japanese bibliographies pertaining to anthropology; and a summary of archaeological work done in the Philippines. The seminar plans to publish summaries of seminar reports and bibliographies of research materials in non-Indo-European languages. The area of interest reaches from northeast Asia to northern Australia.

Washington State College:

Dr. Allan Smith reported that his Kalispel ethnography, the completion of which was interrupted by the war, is nearly ready. His energies have been absorbed in organizing and teaching anthropology classes. The College may establish a separate Anthropology Department next fall.

National Park Service:

Mr. Louis Caywood has made inspections of sites within the Columbia Basin Recreational Area which are of historical, archaeological or palaeontological interest. He recommended that a bulletin be circulated among the archaeologists of the northwest listing all important sites and any finds of special interest.

Vanport College:

Robert Mays reported that his students are preparing card index records of all archaeology sites they find or that are reported to them. Since Vanport is a Junior College the principal function of the anthropologist is to attract students and prepare them for continuing their major elsewhere.

Reed College:

Dr. David French reported that advanced students taking anthropology courses are majors in other departments, hence teaching is the most important activity. He has encouraged G. E. students to write their experiences and observations of native peoples in war areas. Under his guidance the material has been documented and filed. Dr. French's study of factionalism in the pueblos, interrupted by the war, is in process of publication. He and Mrs. French are completing a study of social dynamics among Japanese-American evacuees in Arizona, made during the war.

University of Oregon:

Dr. Luther Cressman reported that Dr. Barnett will return to the department in the fall. Expansion to include training in linguistics and physical anthropology and offerings at the A. M. level are also contemplated. Archaeological field work will continue this summer.

Dr. D. S. Davidson indicated his interests in the southern extreme of the American-Asiatic 'operation horseshoe'.

Dr. Robert Spencer reported progress in the establishment of linguistic studies

University of Oregon: (cont.)

and the offering of an undergraduate major in Far East this year. It is hoped that Japanese and Chinese languages can be offered next year.

Afternoon Session

Present Status of Research, Immediate Research Recommended

Linguistics

Dr. Jacobs emphasized the need for collection of further material on many languages and dialects of the Pacific Northwest especially those that are nearly extinct. He urged recording in text of conversations, autobiographies, ethnographic data and other materials in addition to tales and myths, as well as disc and wire recordings of sample texts. Intensive comparative studies should soon be initiated where published and manuscript material is available. Dr. Jacobs suggested that the first priorities in field work are Twana-Skokomish and Siuslan. Comparisons of Salish dialects should be made. Further material should be collected to supplement Salish and Sahaptin dialects already recorded. Texts in Makah are needed and its relation to Nootka studied. Comparative studies of Northwest "Penutian" are also needed.

The effects of hunting, fishing and gathering ways of life upon vocabulary content and grammatical forms need to be studied. Other approaches suggested by Drs. Kirchhoff, Spencer and Jacobs were; text material as a means of securing ethnography, similar numerical classifiers and kinship types on both sides of the Pacific, and the tenacity of Athapascan morphology as compared to other aspects of culture.

Ethnography

Dr. Ray reported that detailed ethnographic descriptions of tribal cultures are not the urgent problem except for Carrier and Chilcotin of B. C. and Tenino of Oregon. Dr. Ray presented the following as problems which should occupy attention of students. (1) Inter-areal cultural studies with the Plateau as the point of reference. (2) East-west and north-south linear patterns from the Plateau as the focus. (3) Characterization of the cultures of the Basin and Plateau. (4) Detailed study and comparison of specific cultural details such as the role, complexity and attitudes toward music and the subtleties of Plateau political organization.

Archaeology

Dr. Cressman reported that a refined climatic chronology for the Post-Pleistocene and Recent is one of the greatest needs of the Archaeologists. The problem is complicated by differences between physiographic areas and the relatively short time periods involved. Archaeological work should proceed systematically toward the solution of definite problems. The questions to be answered are: When and by what routes did people enter the Great Basin? How are climatic changes, especially those affecting the water supply, reflected in the sites? What are the relations between the prehistoric and modern Indians in the area?

Mr. Burroughs summarized archaeological problems in western Washington as follows: Excavations in the San Juan Islands do not yet reveal any except general Northwest Coast characteristics. Work in progress is planned toward determination of peculiar areal differences and of comparison of different areas in western Washington. Time relationships within sites and between sites remain to be established. A master card index file of pertinent information on western Washington sites is being prepared and used for comparative purposes.

Mr. Ralph Roys is working on the problem of boundaries of Yucatan states at the time of the Conquest and dating back to about 1000 A.D. He explained that research materials were mainly Spanish records of villages given as tribute and Spanish-Maya treaties describing boundaries of towns and provinces. Much information was obtained from present people who have preserved names and site locations of ancient towns in the districts in which their ancestors lived. They also go to church in their own district and approximate boundaries of ancient towns and provinces may be checked by noting church-going habits.

Committee Report:

Dr. Gunther presented the following report which was unanimously adopted.

The assembled anthropologists express their thanks and appreciation to Dr. Odegard and to Dr. Cressman for arranging the meeting and contributing so much to its success.

The committee proposes that the meeting be made an annual affair and that early May be the time set. Reed College is centrally located and the committee proposes that we meet here again if possible.

Two officers, a chairman and secretary, elected at this meeting will take charge. Dr. Davidson is nominated as chairman and Richard Daugherty as secretary.

The chairman shall appoint committees to collect and exchange information in the following fields: 1. Archaeology, 2. Ethnography, 3. Acculturation, 4. Areas outside the Northwest.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30. Coffee and cookies were served through the courtesy of Reed College and Dr. and Mrs. French.

Viola E. Garfield, Secretary

Attendance at the Pacific Northwest Anthropologists Meeting

Reed College:

Dr. David French
Mrs. David French
Dr. Read Bain

Fort Vancouver:

Mr. Louis Caywood

Vancouver College:

Mr. Robert Merz
Mrs. Robert Merz

Students

Barry Bekins
Robert Oller
E. O. Adams

Washington State College:

Dr. Allan Smith
Mrs. Allan Smith

University of Oregon:

Dr. Luther Cressman
Mrs. Luther Cressman
Dr. D. S. Davidson
Mrs. D. S. Davidson
Dr. R. F. Spencer

Students

Mary Ann Doyle
Charles Reetz
Charis Reetz
Robert W. Campbell
Dave Chrysler
Hirot Zakoji
Marjorie Cowlin

University of Washington:

Dr. Erna Gunther
Dr. Verne Ray
Mrs. Verne Ray
Dr. Melville Jacobs
Mrs. Melville Jacobs
Dr. Paul Kirchhoff
Dr. Viola E. Garfield
Mr. Charles D. Garfield
Mr. William Elmendorf
Mrs. William Elmendorf
Mr. Carroll Burroughs
Mrs. Carroll Burroughs
Mr. Ralph Roys

Students

John Morton
Mary Jane Dole
Ann Bocher
Robert E. Bocher
Betty Gervais
Richard D. Daugherty
Richard Conn
Wayne Suttles
Robert B. Lane
Peter C. Kilburn
Eyrd Helligas
Patricia Helligas
Harriet Blowers