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Preliminary Report of Archaeological Work in Alberta, Canada

Wesley Bliss

Alden Hayes

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it had the hinge on the inner side of the foot along the straight margin of the sandal. The basketry showed the split stitch on a split rod foundation.

At three localities (numbered as two sites and all within ten miles of one another) pictographs were found. These proved the most interesting finds of the survey. Although at present there is no way to associate the pictographs definitely with cultural material from the sites in which they were found and thus with the people using that material and bearing that culture, nevertheless, from the evidence at hand and until there is proof to the contrary, it seems safe to assume that the paintings are so associated. If this is granted, there are some significant facts to be noted. Although so far as superficial examination goes, the material culture from the Big Bend caves and that which I have seen from the caves of Coahuila is practically identical, the pictographs from the two areas are quite distinct. Those from Texas in many cases represent zoomorphic figures, while those from Coahuila are small, fine-lined, and in no case seen by me were they of a zoomorphic nature. In Coahuila sites, the most common element was the zig-zag line or rather the chevron. From the study of the full series of pictographs many of the more complicated motives and patterns appeared to be nothing more than manipulation of and variations on the chevron: adding parallel lines to the wings, placing a dot between the wings, fitting one chevron within another, or attaching them in horizontal sequence to form the zig-zag line. Another very common element consisted of a red dot surrounded by a circular band of yellow, looking not unlike a sun. There were also many groups of parallel, vertical lines of alternating colors. The painting in most cases was executed in what seemed to be red and yellow ochre. The only other color occurred in two figures done in black, but one of these was very possibly modern, thus leaving the other's authenticity in doubt also.

WALTER W. TAYLOR,
*Northern Arizona State Teachers College,
Flagstaff, Arizona.*



PRELIMINARY REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN ALBERTA, CANADA

Work that we have done, since leaving the University of New Mexico, in the area around Edmonton, Alberta, has been preliminary to investigations that will take place in the coming spring and summer when it is possible to travel to the north. Because of the frontier aspect of western Canada and the handicap of the extreme winter, we have accomplished little in the way of field work. An attempt to trace migration routes in this region, where so little archaeological work has been done, will then be made. Through the

fine coöperation of the University of Alberta, many contacts have been made with collectors of aboriginal stonework, and progress facilitated. Collections examined in the southeast part of Alberta, near the Saskatchewan border, show material predominately of local manufacture (at least 80 per cent). This is of the character of Plains stonework. Obsidian points, which probably came from Wyoming, were found. The chert and argillite pebbles, of which most of the local points were made, come from the Cretaceous Bear-Paw Shales. A range of dark brown to black in color, and an oval form two to six inches in longest diameter, characterize these pebbles. Knives, scrapers, and crude axes were made of a light brown quartzite. Mauls, three-quarter grooved in part, but in majority full grooved, were made of river pebbles. Five Yuma points were found, three were taken from blow-outs, one was a surface find, and one came from a creek bank about three feet below the present surface. Interestingly enough, the patination on some of the points was far deeper than that seen on Southwestern artifacts. This may, of course, be due to the different climate or to some difference in the chert itself. Another collection examined near Pigeon Lake, southwest of Edmonton, consisted mainly of a number of polished celts, one possibly of nephrite and one of copper. Because of the material, and methods of cutting and polishing used, there seems to be little doubt that these artifacts represent either trade, or, and more likely, a group with cultural affinities with British Columbia cultures. So far the studies made have been but an accumulation of material and bibliographical work leading to the formation of hypotheses and indicative of new lines of evidence or clues to be followed.

Near Drumheller, in central Alberta, a Buffalo Pound was found in the local bad lands formed by Red Deer River and its tributary coulees. In one of these coulees on the ranch of Mr. Sember, of Hesketh, are the remains of a large pound which was used over a long period of time. The draw is about 250 yards wide at this point and perhaps thirty-five to forty yards deep. At about twenty-five feet under the west edge of the coulee is a level place sixty feet long by twenty feet wide. It is white with buffalo bones. From this boneyard, Mrs. Sember has culled over two hundred arrowheads or fragments. Around the outside edge of the bone pile at a distance of about seven feet apart are buried a series of scapulae. These form a rough triangle and may have been supports for posts in the pound walls. While there are no signs of corral walls that might have been used to direct the buffalo over the cliff on the prairies above, there can be no doubt that that or some other method of enticing a stampeding herd was the procedure followed in luring the animals to their doom at the bottom of the coulee.

WESLEY L. BLISS *and* ALDEN HAYES,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.