

COLLECTION: Papers of Neil Judd at the National Anthropological Archives

**CDI
ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 000154

ERRATA: Copy too dark to read in some places

COMMENTS: None.

CITATION: Hrdlicka, Ales
N.D. Brief Report on Skeletal from Pueblo Bonito and Nearby Ruins, New Mexico, Collected by Neil M. Judd, by Ales Hrdlicka: Notes on Burials at Pueblo Bonito. In Papers of Neil M. Judd, Box 6, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.



Papers of Neil M. Judd

**Chaco Canyon Notes, Notebooks,
and Note Cards**

Notes -- Notebooks

NATIONAL
ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Box 6

BRIEF REPORT ON THE SKELETAL MATERIAL
FROM PUEBLO BONITO AND NEARBY RUINS, NEW MEXICO,
COLLECTED BY NEIL M. JUDD.

By Ales Hrdlicka.

The total material consists of 79 skulls, of which 46 are with the skeleton or a part of the same. Thirty-three skulls are without any skeletal parts, while 27 lots of bones and 14 lower jaws are without a skull. With reference to sex and age the conditions are as follows:

Age & sex :	Total of: skulls :	Skull & skeleton or: a part of skeleton.:	Skull: alone:	Skeletal parts alone
Adult males	22	13	9	5
Adult females	36	18	18	8
Infants, children & adolescents	21	15	6	13
<hr/>				
Totals	79	46	33	27

There is a large predominance in the sex of females, and this becomes even more marked if the data be restricted to the pueblos "Bonito" and "del Arroyo". The juveniles range from before term to adolescence, but most are children between 3 and 6 years of age.

The material may well be considered all together, there being not the slightest indication that more than one and the same physical type is represented in the collections.

All the skulls are artificially deformed, by occipital compression. This is also of but one type and represents clearly with all these specimens a uniform practice.

The skeletal parts indicate moderate to occasionally short stature, and fair robustness, especially in the remains from the Pueblo Bonito.

The skulls are of moderate size to large, and rather heavy. Their anthropological characteristics, particularly those of the facial parts, are those of the Pueblos, and there is no intrusion.

A number of interesting features is presented by the skulls and bones in respect to disease. In general the lot indicates remarkably healthy conditions, with good and proper nutrition shown by the generally excellent condition of the teeth. It is interesting to note that the teeth show less wear than those of many other prehistoric Indian groups, including some of the other Pueblos. Yet most of the individuals, particularly women, died young, or before reaching really advanced age. The following records will be of interest in these connections:

ESTIMATED AGE (SKULLS)

The Young:

Before term:	1-2 y.:	3-4 y.:	5-6 y.:	7-8 y.:	9-10 y.:	Adolescent:
1	4	8	8	3	1	4

Adults (or near):

	Near adult:	Young: adult:	25-30:	Abt. 35 :	Nearing middle age:	Middle: age :	Over mid- dle age :	Aged
Males	3	1	1	1	4	8	1	-
Per cent	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>5</u>	
Females	3	10	2	1	3	9	4	3
Per cent	<u>8</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>

	Men per cent	Women per cent
Died shortly before or soon after reaching adult life	21	37
Bet. abt. 25 and middle age	31	17
Middle - aged	42	26
Older	5	19

Diseases: Injuries in life are very rare. Of diseases of childhood, the only one present is symmetric osteoporosis (see Hrdlička, "Anthropological Work in Peru, etc.", Smiths. Misc. Coll., 1914, LXI, No. 18). Of the 28 skulls of children up to 10 years of age, 6, or 21 per cent, show marked osteoporosis, particularly of the parietals and the frontal squama (the face, jaws and the skeletal parts are, as usual, free from the disease). There is not a trace of rickets or tuberculosis, in either the juveniles or the adults.

Among the adult skulls and skeletons, the majority are entirely free from any pathological condition.

The older subjects show, as usual, more or less of senile arthritis of the vertebrae and about the condyles of the femur, with here and there traces on other bones. In one of the skulls there are marks of a bad arthritis in the left glenoid fossa.

Three of the skulls show the effects of some form of ulceration. In a middle-aged male (327,0⁷51), there are traces of such a process (neither syphilitic nor tuberculous-like) on the frontal convexity; in a middle-aged female (327,072), the surface of the frontal squama above the forehead is somewhat irregular; while in another middle-aged female (327,066), the upper two-thirds of the frontal and the anterior halves of the parietals show pathological irregular depressions, with two deeper scar-like lesions, that remind one somewhat of syphilitic lesions, with-

out however permitting a definite conclusion. This skull shows also on the fore part of the ventral surface of the frontal, two moderate-sized irregular, flat exostoses. The few bones that came with this skull (no long bones) are normal. Still another female skull of an ageing person (327,075) shows a superficial scar, without resemblance to anything syphilitic, on the left frontal protuberance.

Besides the above, one of the adult males, nearing middle-age (327,112), shows a smooth depression over the ascending ramus of the right malar and the descending part of the frontal - probably due to the presence in life of a wen. Many of the skulls, due doubtless to the disturbance caused by the deformation, show a tendency towards premature occlusion of the sutures. And in one male (³234,052) the skull shows both the artificial and an irregular semi-pathological deformation, (not a scaphocephaly), the latter caused by a premature occlusion of the sagittal articulation. Finally, one of the middle-aged females (237,114) shows a small osteoma on the frontal.

Of the many bones of the skeleton, there is just one that deserves a special mention. This is a large male tibia (334,959) from Pueblo del Arroyo, which throughout its length is affected by pronounced hypertrophic osteitis. There are no scars or signs of breaking down and the diagnosis is uncertain.

The pathological conditions found on the material, though few in number, make further and exhaustive collections of skeletal remains from the Chaco Canyon very desirable.