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Papers of Neil M. Judd

Pueblo Bonito Correspondence

Nelson, N.C -- W

NATIONAL
ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES
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Box 5

May 17, 1926.

Mr. Frank H. E. Roberts,
15 Wendell Street,
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Frank:

As to your question regarding measurements on the 1924 East Mound section, you will recall that one of Nelson's sections lay just to the east of our trench. Dirt from his cut had been scraped over the surface where we trenched. Our strings, therefore, were leveled as close to the old surface as possible. We scraped off the earth from Nelson's trench and leveled up the string, that is, the strings on the upper side would be at the ground level. Thus down slope might be two or four inches above the old surface. All subsequent measurements were taken from the strings. I still have hopes of finding our 1924 charts among the papers left at camp. Bryan's cross section takes in everything but I cannot recall that much of Nelson's dirt lay anywhere except at the peak of the mound.

So far as I am able to judge you will return to Washington with me toward the end of October. Bear this in mind in buying your ticket. If you can save money by getting the round trip to Denver and back to Boston by way of Washington, do so. We will hold you here and throw the ticket away. If it is cheaper to get one way fare to Gallup by way of Denver and back here, do so. But these matters, I leave entirely to your judgment.

Next Monday, in Chicago, I shall tell Dr. Laufer, at the Field Museum, that you will stop off there for a day (about the 20th) to examine the Wetherill collections from Chaco Canyon. I wish you would plan this and write Laufer in advance reminding him of your coming in order that he may have this material easily accessible. As I saw it last fall it was piled on narrow shelves and could not be disturbed. Specimens are not marked but I believe Wetherill's original lists are to be had. Although marked Pueblo Bonito, I judge the specimens have come chiefly from small house sites.

After the day in Chicago, I wish you would go to Denver and reexamine the collections there paying especial attention to the Piedras pottery in order to ascertain, if possible, whether it might be earlier or later than our Chaco types. From Denver, I will ask you to go to Boulder to examine Morris's collections from the Animas and the Gobernador. You might find something else of interest there that will keep you occupied for several days. If not, I would urge you to

stop off in Santa Fe and examine their collections from the Rio Puerco, meeting Lynn and Karl in Gallup on the late afternoon of Friday, July 2nd, or on Number 9 Saturday morning, July 3rd. The boys will return to Gallup from camp on the 3rd prepared for our usual annual celebration next day. Please keep the customary account of disbursements taking receipts for all except minor items. I shall forward a check to you by June 18th.

I am putting Brother Henry on as truck driver and general assistant in the excavations so you are fairly certain to find him in camp with us. I leave here Friday or Saturday so will ask you to write or wire me if you think of anything else that requires my attention or anything which I have neglected. Under separate cover I am sending to you a number of prints of the Bonito and del Arroyo ground plans. The rest I shall carry with me.

I cannot avoid the feeling that the gods are holding you firmly in their lap. In order that their protective influence may be reflected upon our camp I shall ask you to hurry the time as much as possible and meet us, as above requested, on July 2nd or 3rd.

With all good wishes as you complete your class work,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

NWJ:G