

COLLECTION: El Palacio Collection

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ACCESSION
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ERRATA:

COMMENTS:

Lists who attended the conference and relevant topics discussed.

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THE 1947 CHACO CONFERENCE

ERIK K. REED

ON JULY 28-30, the Southwesternists convened at Chaco Canyon for the first time since before the war to discuss anthropological problems. Like prewar meetings, the Conference was arranged by the Field School of the University of New Mexico, which extended splendid hospitality to the visitors.

Along with the usual "news roundup," with active Southwesternists present reporting on their current research projects, topics receiving more extended special discussion included: the relationships between the archaeological and ethnological approaches, or fields, of investigation; archaeological classification and terminology in the Pueblo area; types of stone points representing "early man" in several areas of North America; the need for counter-propaganda to defeat attempts to sabotage the Lacey Act of 1906 for the protection of American antiquities, which was based largely on recommendations of the late Dr. Hewett.

Participants in the conference included: Dr. A. V. Kidder, Chairman of the Division of Historical Research, Carnegie Institution of Washington, who excavated at Pecos 1915-17 and 1919-30, then turned to the Maya field; Dr. Fred Eggan of the University of Chicago, Vice President of the American Anthropological Association, who has been spending the summer in Santa Fe; Dr. Verne F. Ray of the University of Washington; Dr. Clyde Kluckhohn of Harvard University, who is president of the American Anthropological Association; Florence Kluckhohn; E. Z. Vogt, Jr., of the University of Chicago, working with Dr. Kluckhohn this summer in the area of Ramah, New Mexico; John Adair; Herbert Dick from Harvard University; Alex Krieger of the University of Texas; H. T. Cain of the San Diego (California) Museum; Odd S. Halseth of Pueblo Grande, Phoenix, Arizona; Robert Lister of the University of Colorado; Superintendent Robert G. Rose and Naturalist Don Watson of Mesa Verde National Park; Dr. Deric O'Bryan of Gila Pueblo (Globe, Arizona); Carroll Burroughs, and Drs. Paul Reiter, Frank C. Hibben, Joaquin Ortega, and F. V. Scholes of the University of New Mexico; Dr. James Spuhler of Ohio State University; Mr. David Baerreis of the University of

Wisconsin; and several Santa Fe residents — Dr. H. P. Mera, Dr. Walter W. Taylor, Jr., Bertha Dutton and Edwin N. Ferdon of the Museum, and, from the National Park Service office, Dr. Jesse L. Nusbaum, Dr. Erik K. Reed, Dale S. King, and Charlie R. Steen. A complete roster of all attending the meeting will be available from the Department of Anthropology of the University of New Mexico.

Next year's field conference of Southwestern anthropologists will meet at the camp of the field school of the University of Arizona, at Point-of-Pines in Circle Prairie, high in forested country 75 miles east of San Carlos, Arizona, probably in late August, at the invitation of Dr. Emil W. Haury, Head of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Arizona.

RANDOM NOTES ON THE 1947 CHACO CONFERENCE

ODD S. HALSETH *

*"King David and King Solomon led merry merry lives;
Each had many concubines and many many wives;
But as old age approached, both of them got qualms;
So Solomon wrote the Proverbs and David wrote the Psalms."*

I DON'T KNOW just why this verse should pop into my head as I sat down to write my Chaco Conference notes. Perhaps because new and factual contributions to the meeting were so few that impressions became highlighted in a reflective mood with a few reminiscent shadings. Although archaeology is ageless, archaeologists are not; and at the Chaco meeting there seemed to be definite signs of qualms in the ranks. One could almost sense a promise of both proverbs and psalms from minds whose idea of approach is stronger than the adherence to any pedantic faith or school of doctrines. The printed page seems to have lost a lot of its former Mosaic finality in archaeology, both to the authors and to the younger students, more and more of whom seem to be "from Missouri."

It must be taken as a hopeful sign that, after having gone through a period of debauchery endemic to the profession, each archaeological generation will suffer more and better qualms which

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