

COLLECTION: El Palacio Collection

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A SKELETAL SERIES FROM CHACO CANYON

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THE material used in the following series was taken from a number of Pueblo III sites in the Chaco Canyon area of northwestern New Mexico. Although the skeletal collections for this area are rather small, partial skeletons of seventeen adult individuals were obtained from the storerooms of the University of New Mexico and the University of Chicago. These were excavated, originally, from several adjacent Chaco sites¹ and were from approximately the same time period. All of the specimens were from house or dump-heap burials, and these were, for the most part, scattered or incomplete. The series included eight males and nine females, but the sex of five of this group (two assigned as males, three as females) was uncertain. The skeletons were aged according to the age-classification used by Hooton.² Of the seventeen specimens, five were classified as "young adult" (21-35), ten as "middle aged adult" (36-55), and two as "old adult" (56-75).

In this summary presentation individual measurements are not given. Table 1, however, lists the series of indices with the number of cases, range, mean, and standard deviation.

TABLE 1

Index	Number	Range	Mean	S.D.
Cranial	6	83.1- 89.0	85.5	2.6
Height-Length	3	79.1- 86.1	80.8	2.06
Height-Breadth	3	90.6-101.5	95.6	7.9
Fronto-Parietal	6	59.1- 67.5	65.6	3.03
Cranial Module	3	126.7-151.3	140.6	9.8
Nasal	1	50
Nasalia	2	80 - 89.5	84.8	4.45
Orbital	5	78.6- 92.5	85.4	5.26
Interorbital	5	20.2- 45.7	29.2	8.85
External Palatal	3	94.5-123.2	112.4	12.7

* At present at University of Colorado.

1. *Bc.* 51, 53, and 59.

2. E. A. Hooton, *Up From the Ape* (New York, 1949), p. 741.

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Mandibular	6	63.9- 87.9	77.6	6.85	157
Fronto-Gonial	4	95.6-113.6	102.6	4.25	
Pelvic Height-Breadth	6	127.1-135.8	130.7	3.85	
Sacrum Length-Breadth	4	88.1-100.9	95.6	5.25	
Platymeria	8	72.4- 79.4	75.3	3.75	
Middle Index of Femur	8	75 -100	87.9	8.7	
Middle Index of Tibia	6	55.5- 66.7	62.1	4.25	
Nutritive Foramen	7	51.3- 65.5	57.5	5.25	
Scapulary	5	68.4- 77.9	72.8	3.4	
Infra-Spinal	6	100 -119.8	110.2	6.2	
Supra-Spinal	5	39.2- 46.2	43.4	2.4	

The Chaco skulls were all brachycephalic. The lowest cephalic index in the series of six was well within the broadheaded category. Attendant on this is the lambdoidal flattening that all the crania show. Generally this flattening centered at the juncture points of the sagittal and lambdoidal sutures.

That the Chaco skull vault is relatively high is seen by the height-length index of 80.8. In comparison, the metriocephalic height-breadth index mean is indicative of the relatively great width of the crania.

Facial measurements were scanty. One nasal index was obtained, and it was mesorrhine (50.0). The orbital index (left) showed a tendency toward elongated orbits, but there was considerable variation in the five specimens. Great variation was also seen in the palatal index. One of the three specimens was strongly dolichuranc and the other two were brachyuranc. The mean of 112.4 is, in this case, quite misleading.

On the post-cranial skeleton, the femoral index of platymeria was platymeric (75.3) but with the individual cases divided about evenly between hyperplatymeria and platymeria. There was only slight development of the third trochanter. Retrogression of the femoral head was medium in three cases and pronounced in three others.

The tibial index of platycnemia was platycnemic (57.5) with a considerable range. Retroversion of the tibial head was medium in three cases and slight in two others. There was no incidence of squatting facets.

A stature reconstruction was attempted for the skeletons. The formulae *male* 71.272 plus 1.159 (*femur plus tibia*), and *female* 69.154 plus 1.126 (*femur plus tibia*) gave the heights, *male* 1600.5 mm. and *female* 1509.0 mm.

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FIELD STUDY OF YAGUL, OAXACA, BY MEXICO CITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Lost City of Yagul, a Zapotec city near Oaxaca and Mitla, is being given its first scientific attention by the 1954 Mexico City College field work project in anthropology under Dr. Ignacio Bernal, Director. This ancient site is on a rocky hill in the fertile valley near modern Tlacolula.

First reports indicate that Yagul could be a second Mitla, or that both are contemporaneous. Similarities of construction between the two have been noted; in particular, the Palace at Yagul is almost identical with Mitla's Hall of Columns. A ball court (actually three courts one over the other) was found at Yagul. Mitla, however, has none.

The ruins are remarkably preserved, and special care has been taken to leave existing remains intact. Pottery suggests a date a few years prior to the Conquest. One outstanding find was a huge, carved stone, about 1500 years old, representing the serpent-god, now at the Oaxaca Museum. Small tombs have been cleaned out by some of the students engaged in stratigraphic studies. Another student has made a perspective drawing of Yagul's "acropolis"—the Palace, a related group of structures, a habitation area, the ball court, a fortress, and other features.

Further study is needed to establish whether Yagul was the great capital of the Mitla Valley, and whether it may answer questions as to the origin of architectural decorations in stone mosaic characteristic of Mitla.

Mexico City College students with Doctor Bernal have also begun a survey of archaeological sites in the valleys of Oaxaca, and have collected ceramic samples from more than 100 of them; they have photographed Zapotec stone carvings and have excavated a major tomb at Monte Albán.

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1953 VIKING FUND AWARDS

The 1953 Viking Fund awards have been given by the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research to T. Dale Stewart, in physical anthropology; Melville J. Herskovitz, in general anthropology; and Gordon R. Willey, in archaeology. (*Science*, March 26, 1954.)

LIPPINCOTT NAMED HEAD ASSOCIATE IN CHARGE OF FOLK ART UNIT

WILLIAM Lippincott was chosen from among more than a score of applicants to head the Museum of International Folk Art unit of the Museum of New Mexico. The initiative to nominate Lippincott to fill the vacant position was taken by the selection committee of the International Folk Art Foundation; their action was confirmed by the Board of Regents of the Museum of New Mexico.

Lippincott was graduated by the University of California, Berkeley, with a bachelor's degree in anthropology, and then pursued further studies at that University and graduate work in social anthropology at the University of Chicago. Later he took courses in photography, under Ansel Adams, at the California School of Fine Arts, San Francisco, and in painting, under Louis Bunce, of the Portland, Oregon, Art Museum.

After studies at the University of Chicago, he spent two years in the National Park Service, in the western parks and monuments, and at the Western Museum Laboratories, preparing exhibits. After this he owned and operated a Navaho Indian trading post at Wide Ruins, Arizona. Here he encouraged Navaho arts and crafts for thirteen years, until he felt that the Indians were ready to conduct their own craft and business dealings.

Subsequently he successfully ran his cattle ranch in southwestern Oregon, was President of the Service Telephone Company, and acted as delegate for his area to the Farm Bureau Federation.

During World War II, and for some years before and after, he served in the U. S. Naval Reserve; he saw active duty from 1941 to 1945, when he was commissioned a Commander.

In Oregon, he organized an art group in Grants Pass, known as The Gallery, which exhibited and taught art. He has also for the past five years been a commissioner of the Arts and Crafts Board, Department of the Interior.