

COLLECTION: El Palacio Collection

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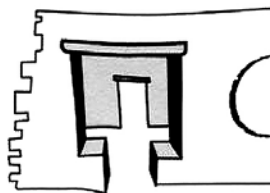
ERRATA:

COMMENTS:

Brief summary of Judd's monograph describing pit houses excavated during National Geographic Expedition.

CITATION:

1924 Chaco Canyon Pit Houses. El Palacio 17 (12): 286-288.



CHACO DIGITAL INITIATIVE

had never been built over, it proved to be the oldest architectural structure ever found in the Near East. It is in a remarkable state of preservation. The vast structure was built of the earliest known type of brick, which were very small and shaped like biscuits. After uncovering the outer walls the excavators found a magnificent brickway flanked by a great wall and built into alcoves. Near it was an equally imposing colonnade of brick pillars running east and west through the throne room. Inscriptions showed that these formed the front of a court where-in the king or wise men of the country decided disputes and legal cases. This, according to Langdon's report, is the first time a series of pillars has been found in Mesopotamia. Around the throne room were many exquisitely worked plaques arranged in a great frieze depicting expeditions of the first kings to subdue foreign cities. They showed in clear detail the dress and faces of the kings who are now conclusively proven to have been Sumerians, and not Semites, Langdon asserted. Both kings and prisoners had round heads and their lips and cheeks were shaven. The axis of the eye was outward and downward, instead of horizontal as in the Semites.

Chaco Canyon Pit Houses Neil M. Judd, curator of American Archaeology in the National Museum, and some years ago with the School of American Research at Santa Fe, is the author of a mono-

graph with seven plates, descriptive of two Chaco Canyon Pit Houses of which he says that they are "vastly more ancient than the stone structures of the Canyon." The discovery of the two pit houses is ascribed to the National Geographical Pueblo Bonito Expedition, of which he has been the director. The first pit house is near Casa Rinconada and was uncovered by Zuni workmen and that quite unexpectedly. It is three feet deep and 17 feet in diameter. "The room had been gouged, presumably with stone or wooden implements from clayey silt strata which wind and water had deposited." In the pit house were a circular fireplace, three sandstone bins, four metates, one mano, a grooved stone maul, two hammer stones, five bone awls and several shards. The second pit house was pointed out to Judd by a Navajo friend in 1922. It is one mile east of Pueblo Bonito. This proved by far the most interesting for it contained a tangled mass of roofing poles and much other material, including artifacts. It is the writer's conclusion that the pit houses form a connecting link with similar structures in so widely separated localities as the Mesa Verde and Luna in Socorro county, New Mexico. "Of scarcely less interest is the fact that finding an improvised pipe and basketry and textiles exhibiting extraordinary skill in weaving adds appreciably to previous knowledge of pit house structure and strengthens its suspec-

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ted close relationship with that of subsequent pe-
riods."

Finds at Llano

Pascual Martinez and Ranger Wang
of Taos, in examining the pueblo
ruins at Llano in Taos county, dug
up two primitive ollas and a cloud blower which
have been deposited in the Harwood Foundation
Museum at Taos.

MUSEUM EVENTS.

Annual Meet- ing Historical Society

At the annual meeting of the New
Mexico Historical Society held in
the Palace of the Governors on the

evening of November 13, the following officers
were elected:

President: Ralph E. Twitchell.

Vice Presidents: Paul A. F. Walter, Jose D. Sena
and W. D. Murray.

Council: Frank W. Clancy, Mrs. Jacob Weltmer,
Felix Baca, E. Dana Johnson, W. C. Reid and
Amado Chaves.

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Reed Holloman.

Secretary and Treasurer: Lansing B. Bloom.

Curator: Henry Woodruff.

The Society is making rapid progress in catalog-
uing its library and correlating its exhibits with
those of the Museum of New Mexico. The new
president, Colonel Twitchell, is making his office
in the Palace of the Governors with the assistant
director of the Museum who is the secretary-treas-
urer of the Historical Society.

December Exhibits

The Museum art galleries have
much that is new and attractive
during December. Among the out-
standing exhibits is that of Gustave Baumann who
shows his new color wood-block prints, which enter
more into the heart of the Southwest than any of
the preceding series produced by the artist. The
smaller, most of them — and daintier — they do not
lack strength and must be pronounced the best
this noted artist has as yet produced. Several
black and white sketches are also very fine. Wil-
lard Nash shows a number of water colors, which