Fourth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology-Smithsonian Institution, Washington, 1886

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Source: *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. 17 (1888), pp. 187-188

Published by: [Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2841601>

Accessed: 16/06/2014 12:51

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FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF ETHNOLOGY—
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, 1886.

THE Fourth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology is not quite as large as its predecessors, neither is it, perhaps, quite as full of interest, although the papers are of high scientific value, from the systematic manner in which the work of exploration has been carried out, and the large amount of material collected and classified.

The recorded field-work consists of explorations among the mounds of the Mississippi Valley, in the course of which four thousand one hundred specimens were added to the National Museum, including a large collection of pottery, skulls, stone, copper, and shell implements and ornaments, also some articles shewing contact with Europeans, such as hammered iron, bracelets, brooches, and crosses of silver, and a hog's tooth. The full report of these explorations will be of great utility to future workers in this extensive field; but the explorations carried on by Mr. James Stevenson, among the cliff dwellings in the cañons of North Mexico, are of still greater interest, for these cliff dwellings are an extraordinary development of the primitive cave dwellings of early man, consisting of huge chambers tunnelled into the solid rock, in some cases 300 feet above the bed of the cañon. Some of these village chambers are of enormous dimensions, one being described as 1,500 feet from side to side, and about half that space from the back to the edge of the cliff; calculated to have been the home of between a thousand and fifteen hundred persons. The floor of this cave, probably a natural cavity enlarged, was studded with dwellings built of square stones laid in mortar, and houses three stories high are found, filling up spaces between rocky projections, whilst frequently houses have been built jutting out from the cliff, reminding one of swallows' nests on a large scale.

The most singular part of these extraordinary dwellings is, that they appear to have been constructed entirely by users of stone implements; but who, judging from their works, must have attained to a civilisation superior to that of the neolithic peoples of Europe, for they had much artistic skill, the dwellings being painted in various colours, generally in bands, but also in a pattern resembling the Greek fret, and with many curious designs of unknown meaning introduced. They seem, also, to have cultivated Indian corn, and to have made garments and matting from the fibre of the Yucca; they also wore finely woven sandals of peculiar pattern, and skeletons have been found, buried in a sitting posture, with the flesh and skin dried to the hardness of stone.

Mr. Frank Cushing continues his interesting researches among the Zuñis, and Mr. Victor Mindeleff is prosecuting the same work among the Moki, and we may hope soon to see the result of their investigations.

Good work has also been done in classifying the languages of

many of the Indian tribes, by the Rev. Owen Dorsey, Mrs. Erminie Smith, and others, and it is probable that through the names of animals, trees, &c., we may, in time, obtain a knowledge of the migrations and affinities of the various tribes.

The most important paper in the present volume is that by Colonel Garrick Mallery, U.S.A., on the Pictographs of the North American Indians, which is very profusely illustrated, and includes rock sculptures as well as paintings. It is of especial interest to find that a certain geographical area can be assigned to each form of descriptive writing, or hieroglyphs, as they may be called. Colonel Mallery supposes that American pictographs are: "1st. Mnemonic, embracing order of songs, traditions, treaties, war, and time. 2nd. Notifications, comprising notice of departure and direction, of condition, warning and guidance, geographic features, claim or demand, messages and communications, and record of expeditions. 3rd. Totemic: this embraces tribal, gentile, clan, and personal designations, insignia and tokens of authority, personal names, property marks, status of individuals, and signs of particular achievements. 4th. Religious, comprising mythic personages, shamanism, dances and ceremonies, mortuary practices, grave posts, charms and fetiches. 5th. Customs and habits. 6th. Tribal history. 7th. Biographic, in which are examples giving continuous record of events in a life, and other cases of particular exploits and occurrences." From this it will be seen that the pictographs of a tribe are, in fact, the history of that tribe, or rather of particular events relating to the chiefs of the tribe, although in some cases they have a symbolic, or religious meaning.

The next paper is on the "Pottery of the Ancient Pueblos," by William H. Holmes, followed by another on the "Origin and Development of Form and Ornament in Ceramic Art," by the same author. In these we are introduced to many quaint and curious forms in pottery, and to some very beautiful ornamental designs, showing that the ancient Americans had attained to greater perfection in this art than even the early Greeks and Etruscans, although the designs are chiefly geometrical.

The concluding paper in this volume is one by Mr. Frank Cushing on "A Study of Pueblo Pottery, as illustrative of Zuñi Culture Growth," which treats of the evolution of form both in architecture and pottery, through necessity or convenience. With regard to architecture, Mr. Cushing supposes the rectangular form to have been developed from the circular, which was the older, originating from the tent; whilst he believes pottery to have been anticipated by basketry.

These papers should be studied carefully by those who are interested in the ancient pottery of Europe, for they would find in them many suggestions for future investigations.

A. W. BUCKLAND.