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ART. I.—*The Investigation of the Prehistoric Human Remains found near Cuzco, Peru, in 1911*; by HIRAM BINGHAM.*

IN the American Journal of Science for April, 1912, the present writer made a brief report on "The Discovery of Pre-Historic Human Remains near Cuzco, Peru." Published in connection with this report was a paper by Prof. Isaiah Bowman on the "Geologic Relations of the Cuzco Remains," and another paper by Dr. G. F. Eaton, entitled: "Report on the Remains of Man and of Lower Animals from the Vicinity of Cuzco, Peru."

It will be remembered that a small collection of vertebrate remains had been found interstratified with the gravel bank in the Ayahuaycco Quebrada, not far from Cuzco; and that these bones were brought to New Haven for study.

It was a keen disappointment to us that we were not able in 1911 to spend more time in Cuzco. I concluded my report as follows: "Notwithstanding my great interest in these prehistoric human remains, I felt it was wiser to carry out the plans originally adopted for the Expedition, although that meant a hurried departure from Cuzco without doing more than is shown by the results presented herewith. It seems to me extremely desirable to continue the work of exploration and excavation in and about Cuzco, for it is highly probable that important data bearing on Inca and pre-Inca civilization may be obtained here."†

Chiefly owing to the interest shown in this discovery, and in others made on the same expedition, by the National Geographic Society and by certain friends of Yale University, it was possible to return to Peru in 1912 and make a thorough

* Director of the Peruvian Expedition of 1912.

† This Journal (4), xxxiii, p. 305.

2 Bingham—*Results of the Peruvian Expedition of 1912.*

investigation of the Ayahuaycco Quebrada and of the Cuzco Valley.

The Expedition of 1912 reached Cuzco in June and left at the end of November. Nearly three months were spent in a careful topographic survey of the Cuzco Valley. A portion of that map is published at this time. The remainder will appear in connection with the complete geological report of the Expedition.

Remembering that I had seen many bones in position in various parts of the vicinity, and feeling that it would be entirely impracticable to bring home all this bone material without knowing its value, I persuaded Dr. Eaton, who had reported on the bones brought home in 1911, to accompany the Peruvian Expedition of 1912 in the capacity of osteologist. The approved plan for his work included: (a) a careful search for bone deposits in the cliffs of the Ayahuaycco Quebrada and in other similar cliffs in the vicinity wherever located within easy reach of trails; (b) search for bone deposits at heights not easily accessible from trails,—such deposits rarely coming within the category of human burials, and such search requiring the use of rope slings; (c) especial attention to be paid to the occurrence of remains of pre-Hispanic and Hispanic animals, including domestic poultry, horses, asses, mules and cattle; (d) examination of skeletons of contemporary bovines, to determine the value of the peculiar characteristics noted in the fragmentary bovine rib found in 1911; and, (e) an examination of the so-called “Cuzco ash-deposits,” to determine their origin and true character.

It also seemed to me that it was essential to have a geologist make a far more comprehensive study of the geology of the Cuzco Basin than had been possible in the few days at Prof. Bowman's disposal in 1911. Moreover it seemed advisable that these geological studies should be made by an independent and impartial observer, who should be in no wise influenced by any necessity for substantiating the previous findings, nor by any desire to discredit them. As the previous work had been done by a Yale man, it seemed to me most appropriate that the proposed studies should also be done by a member of the same Faculty, and I accordingly considered myself most fortunate in being able to persuade Prof. Herbert E. Gregory, Silliman Professor of Geology in Yale University, to accept the commission of Geologist of the 1912 Expedition, and to go to Cuzco and make a special study of the Cuzco gravels. His report on this subject and Dr. Eaton's on the vertebrate remains which he found in the Cuzco gravels are presented herewith. While the results are not as exciting as some people wish they were, it is a great satisfaction to me to have been able to get to the bottom of this interesting problem.