

forbidding, but the results are excellent. The findings at Ronquín are carefully compared with other Venezuelan and adjacent regions and the important relationships indicated are as stated above. Three appendices deal with adjacent sites. The final paper by Osgood is a brief, but detailed report on the excavation of a mound in the state of Aragua, near Lake Valencia, in 1933. Aside from details of excavation and classification he discusses "The Life" and "The Art of the Mound Dwellers." This report in conjunction with the contemporary work of Rafael Requena, Alfred Kidder II, and Wendell Bennett, makes this Lake Valencia district the best-known archeological region in Venezuela. Considered as a whole, the three monographs under review for the first time tentatively but objectively outline the prehistoric background of a large and very important section of Hispanic America. As part of the larger Institute of Andean Research research program of 1941-1942¹ they give great promise for the future of prehistoric research in Middle and South America.

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Archaeological Regions of Colombia: A Ceramic Survey. By WENDELL C. BENNETT. [Yale University Publications in Anthropology, No. 30. GEORGE PETER MURDOCK and CORNELIUS OSGOOD, editors.] (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1944. Pp. 120. 12 plates, 26 figures, 9 tables.)

Excavations in the Vicinity of Cali, Colombia. By JAMES A. FORD. [Yale University Publications in Anthropology, No. 31. GEORGE PETER MURDOCK and CORNELIUS OSGOOD, editors.] (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1944. Pp. 79. 4 plates, 19 figures. Bound with Number Thirty, sold only as a unit. \$2.50.)

The support given by the Office of the Coördinator of Inter-American Affairs to the scientific program of the Institute of Andean Research during the years 1941-1942 has already been rewarded by a series of handsome dividends in the form of publications which materially augment knowledge of the ancient history of the central and southern parts of the New World. The two papers here reviewed are numbers 6A and 6B respectively of the series sponsored by the Institute of Andean Research. The first collates in an orderly manner the atomistic elements of the available information concerning the pre-

¹ For a brief outline of this program and the publications resulting therefrom see: Wm. Duncan Strong, *Cross Sections of New World Prehistory*, Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 104, No. 2, 1943.

Columbian ceramics of Colombia. The second documents the excavations carried out by Mr. and Mrs. Ford in the upper part of the Cauca valley, south of the city of Cali.

The coöperation of the authorities of the Republic and of a number of public-spirited private individuals made it possible for Professor Bennett to spend the months from June to September, 1941, in surveying twenty-five archaeological collections. The analysis of these collections is primarily concerned with the pottery objects, as the title of the paper indicates. The emphasis is laid on a description and definition of the decorative styles and their characteristics. The excellent résumés for each section, however, and the final synthesis of the paper bring together the ceramic and non-ceramic data with Bennett's usual economy of phraseology.

Twenty-two styles are described, occurring in nine regions. This scheme follows, with some modifications, the pioneer work of Dr. Gregorio Hernández de Alba. Both the form of the map and the descriptions of the regional styles make it appear preferable to speak of centers or foci, rather than "regions." Each center is characterized by a major and predominant style which is accompanied by from one to four subsidiary styles. The subsidiary elements may be represented by vessels decorated in a manner typical of another center or they may represent a residue not integrally related to the major style or to any other. None of the "regions" has data that are adequate to show what is the spatial distribution of the type style, and good evidence of temporal relationships between styles within "regions" is equally disappointing.

There are two cases of styles of pottery decoration which show evidence of more than local occurrence. The first concerns the pottery which is associated with the stonework of San Agustín. San Agustín style vessels occur in collections from Tierradentro which has its own eponymous style. Present opinion in Colombia is that San Agustín is earlier than Tierradentro and it is greatly to be hoped that the early publication of the fruits of Dr. Hernández de Alba's work in Tierradentro will contribute to the solution of this distributional and chronological problem. The second instance concerns the polyphase-style pottery of the district about Medellín, customarily associated with the Quimbaya. Exemplars of this style are found in collections from the centers of Tierradentro, the Upper Cauca valley and from the center south of Pasto called Nariño. At Tierradentro, Quimbaya is supposed to be the later; its time position is unknown with respect to the styles at the other centers mentioned above.

The absence of widespread styles of decoration for pottery objects of whatever kind makes the problem of Colombian archaeology as a whole exceedingly difficult of solution. Large portions of the Republic lack any known archaeological remains and the small degree of interconnection between the extant centers poses more questions than can be answered with the available information. The physical geography of Colombia, to be sure, harmonizes perfectly with this apparent regional isolation and consequent cultural specialization.

The problem of a relative and tentative chronology for the several centers is touched upon by Bennett with his usual good sense. San Agustín, both the stonework and the pottery style of that name, are postulated as being the oldest of the styles discussed. Quimbaya, and Tierradentro fall into a "middle" bracket. Chibcha, Santa Marta (Tairona) and the styles recovered and described by Ford from Upper Cauca fall into a "late"—presumably fifteenth-sixteenth century—context. This general scheme seems to form a good working hypothesis with the special virtue that some of the "late" styles overlap in time the Spanish conquest. No attempt is made to equate this relative chronology with our solar calendar. A dispassionate consideration of all the evidence presented by Bennett raises the question whether the time period from San Agustín to Chibcha need be greater than five or six centuries. The same evidence underlines another situation of importance: no evidence has yet come to light of the passage through the country which forms the land gate to South America of that continent's first immigrants.

Ford's account of the field work of Project Six between Cali and Popayán is concerned mainly with the nature of the excavations and their material results. Bennett and Ford were of the opinion, as a result of their survey, that with the centers of Tierradentro to the east, of Quimbaya down river to the north and of Nariño to the south, the upper reaches of the Cauca valley might expectably yield some traces of connection between these foci. The Cauca valley also presents physiographically a putative route of migration and passage both to and from Ecuador and Peru. These expectations were only partly rewarded. Three districts of the large region which the Fords explored yielded complexes of grave goods, but little in the way of habitation debris. Admirable analyses of the pottery and artifact complexes leave no doubt as to their individual distinctiveness as well as their lack of relation to previously known styles. There is no clear evidence for distinguishing time periods within the sites examined and the same deficiencies of chronological evidence make it difficult to propose more than a tentative time-scheme for the three complexes.

Ford regards two of the complexes as probably contemporary, while the third is a little although not much older.

The two papers, singly or together, are a significant addition to our slowly increasing knowledge of the pre-Columbian history of South America. They represent a fine example of what intelligent foresight and planning can accomplish with an adequate amount of money in a definite extent of time, provided you have first-rate and experienced personnel. Furthermore, the sort of hard, tedious, unspectacular but careful and supremely competent job done by Ford is precisely what we must have if we expect to learn in any reasonable period of time what was happening in the Andes in the millenium just before and the one just after the birth of Christ.

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