

# AMERICAN ANTIQUITY

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## EDITORIALS

AMERICAN ANTIQUITY has had a flourishing career and is the most important medium we have in North America for keeping regional archaeologists abreast of current research. Our aim as editors is to increase the usefulness of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY to its readers. We believe that more articles reviewing and surveying current situations in broad archaeological areas would benefit all our subscribers, by offering foundation material for students entering such regional research and by providing summaries for the benefit of other specialists who would not be apt to scrutinize technical papers in fields other than their own. Those of us who teach also feel the need for orientation as to current ideas, results, and publications in the many areas where intense archaeological activity is now taking place.

In respect to preparing such articles, we have met considerable coyness in our colleagues, on the grounds of protecting their necks or of needing more data to polish off such surveys. There will never be an end to the need for more information. The norm for archaeological conclusions is a duration of less than a decade. The measure of our progress is that our tentative opinions change from year to year.

We should like to be able to have articles covering the archaeology of the Americas, rotating through a two year period, so that the subscribers to AMERICAN ANTIQUITY could be in touch with the tenor of research in different areas. The more specialized articles which are essential to the scientific progress of research would therefore be enhanced by a background of the regional problems and methods for their solution.

Some of us have this material ready to hand in the form of lecture notes for classroom use or papers to be given at the meetings of this Society and others. The editors will welcome articles or inquiries about the future publication of such articles. We still have freedom of speech in this country and archaeological necks must be stout enough to resist an occasional critical buffet. What we think is as important as what we know for a fact.

G. C. V.

MANUSCRIPTS were not too plentiful in our files when this issue of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY was made up. The Editors had considered running an editorial on the subject of "starvation," for your journal very definitely faced such a predicament. Since that time, however, manuscript has begun to trickle in, and we now have in the editorial files enough copy to make up two issues of the journal.

This is as it should be, for the proper exercise of the editorial function an editor needs enough manuscript to be able to select, to pick and choose in order to assemble a cohesive whole. One glance at the dates on the articles will show how rapidly they have found their way into print. As each issue is assembled some five months before it appears, and spends three months going through press, no one can complain that we are too slow. Compared with some of our scientific contemporaries, many of which are three years behind with their publication, we appear like a special edition of a tabloid.

The editors earnestly beg authors not to be too coy about manuscripts, but to turn them in so that we may have material from which to assemble your journal.

D. S. B.