

CORRESPONDENCE

APOLOGY

Most unfortunately, there was dropped from the proof of "The Pottery of Pecos" a statement which was included in the manuscript, acknowledging my deep indebtedness to Mr. F. G. Hawley of Miami, Arizona, for chemical analyses of glazes, made by him at my request. In the same lost paragraph acknowledgment was also made to Dr. Sigvald Linné of the Royal Ethnographic Museum of Stockholm, who also arranged to have analyses made for me in Sweden.

A. V. KIDDER

MOUNTAIN SHEEP EFFIGIES

During the summer of 1935, while the author was a resident of Prescott, Arizona, as Curator of the Smoki Public Museum, the remains of what had once been a large walled compound of prehistoric times were excavated.

The location of the compound was but an approximate two miles from the center of the city of Prescott, and within the northern border of the fenced area known as the Fair Grounds, or Rodeo Field. About one-third of the ruined structure remained when excavation began. The rock and accumulated debris had been, during a period of forty years, a source of filling material for bridge approaches, house foundations, rock walls and well linings. The credit for preserving what remained of the compound until careful excavation could be made is due to Miss Grace Sparkes, Secretary of the Yavapai Chamber of Commerce, who influenced the withdrawal of a tractor and steam-shovel then at work levelling the remaining walls of the compound, and to the Smoki Public Museum for aid in excavation.

Perhaps it would be well to mention briefly the nature of the compound as it was revealed through the excavation. A large wall of cyclopean construction, twenty-four inches thick on the average, seventy-eight by fifty-six feet in length and breadth dimensions, composed the original rock-wall structure. What the original height of the walls had been would be a conjecture, but seems reasonably to assume they were sufficiently high to afford protection in case of attack. The highest portion uncovered in the north section of the wall, was four and one-half feet. On the south, east and west sides only the wall outlines appeared; these were from six to sixteen inches high. No cross walls were uncovered on the original level within the compound. These compound walls in the direction of greatest length were approximately thirty degrees west and east of true north and south, respectively.

At the northern end and within the main walls, two walls at right angles to the former and of later masonry construction were encountered with foundations some thirty inches above the compound wall base. The rocks used in these secondary walls seemed to have been laid up in a well-mixed clay mortar and in

regular courses, with both inner and outer faces quite smooth and regular. This could not be said of the compound walls, of which the outer face was quite even, but the inner surface rough and irregular, some of the rocks extending three to six inches beyond the face of the wall. This feature may have offered an advantage to one scaling the wall from the inside.

Pottery fragments were found in profusion throughout the soil removed. The majority of these sherds were of plain ware, some very coarse. In addition, there was found a considerable quantity of coarse gray ware, crudely designed in black, which has been designated as Prescott black-on-gray, because of the evidence that this pottery originated in the region of Prescott. In smaller

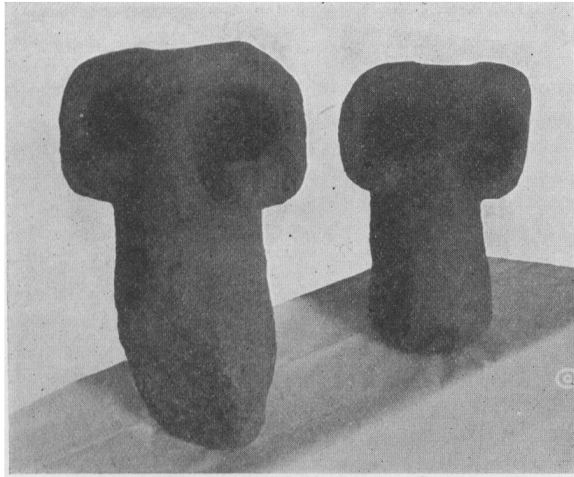


FIG. 5

Copyright 1935, Smoki Public Museum

quantities appeared the black-on-red, black-on-white and red-on-bluff sherds; these apparently were not on the compound wall base level, although it was very difficult to determine with any degree of certainty because the soil had been so greatly disturbed. It would seem plausible, however, that these latter sherds are to be associated with the occupancy of the upper wall structures.

To the east of the walled compound a crude structure was uncovered of the Transitional Pithouse type, and in this two charred ends of supporting poles were found which, so far, it has not been possible to date by the Douglass Tree-Ring Method. On the floor area of this structure, which measured twenty-three by ten feet, three metates were uncovered; two were of the irregular trough type, and the third and largest was of the regular trough type. The floor, level was of well-defined and hard-packed red clay.

The real find of the Fair Ground Excavations, however, was made just outside the north wall of the compound. Two heads of mountain sheep, cut from sandstone, proved to be of outstanding interest (Figure 5). These heads are carved from what seems to be Yavapai sandstone, a material peculiar to this immediate area; this fact would indicate that the heads were made in the immediate vicinity, perhaps on the site of the old habitation within the walls of the compound.

The soil surrounding the compound walls where the rams, heads were unearthed, and within their confines, was very black, apparently containing burned organic matter. Each figure was discolored over an area extending from the base to within eight inches of the top, offering the appearance of having been through fire. Outside this area, which was the portion buried beneath the floor or soil level, the heads were of the natural sandstone color.

The horizontal distance through each head from the outside of one horn to the outside of the other is approximately ten inches. The greatest vertical length measurement is fifteen inches in one figure and eighteen in the other.

These mountain sheep heads, curious specimens of the carving of early inhabitants of the Prescott region, are now on display at the Smoki Public Museum in Prescott, Arizona.

MALCOLM B. CUMMINGS
Clarkdale, Arizona

CREDIT TO PREVIOUS INVESTIGATORS

In the April number of *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*, there is an excellent article by Dr. E. E. Tyzzer on bone points from shell heaps in Maine, which I read with great interest. I have no desire to criticise Dr. Tyzzer's excellent work, yet I think it is proper to express regret that there is no mention in his bibliography of the many seasons which I spent in the exploration of Maine shell heaps. In our book, *Archaeology of Maine*, I devoted fifty-four pages to this subject, illustrating many of the bone points described by Dr. Tyzzer in his article. Those who read his article will naturally conclude that very little work has been done along the Maine coast except by the gentlemen whom he has named. There is a large collection of these points in the Andover Museum. That some of them were used as tips to arrows I do not doubt; others, however, we believe were fish-hooks. They could be fastened as was done on the Northwest Coast, and used effectively for the taking of halibut, cod and other large fish. One of my men made experiments in line with this interpretation many years ago, and was able to catch a few fish with these points.

I trust readers will pardon me if I state that much of my life has been spent in studying chipped objects and their use. I firmly believe that Indians favored, for hunting, a broad stone or bone point rather than slender bone points. The Indian was primarily interested in killing large game, and he knew that a broad or rather heavy arrow point of stone made a larger wound, thus