

EDITORIAL

It is with some hesitation that we publish this issue of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY in a new format. Protests to the change will undoubtedly be strong, particularly on the part of librarians and others who will be faced with a problem in shelving succeeding volumes.

However, it was becoming evident that under the old format, the journal was not being printed in the most economical fashion. Furthermore, restrictions on paper consumption have become increasingly more severe. In our new format we realize a greatly increased economy of publication, and we reduce our consumption of paper at a time when every possible economy in this line contributes to a more complete utilization of a dwindling supply.

For some time the printer has been manufacturing the journal at a very substantial loss. We have been warned that it would be necessary to negotiate a new contract for publication of the journal. Were such a contract to be put into effect, it would result in cutting each issue of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY to approximately 64 pages, because it would not be possible, with our limited resources, to finance a larger number. Such a number would barely accommodate half of the papers now being submitted. It is obvious that AMERICAN ANTIQUITY would not begin to fulfill its obligations to the members of the Society for American Archaeology or to the field of archaeology were it to continue an extravagant format which prevented it from publishing the maximum number of papers.

It undoubtedly will be disappointing to many to see such a thin number of the journal. sixty-four pages is not nearly as impressive as ninety-six or one hundred twelve. Yet there is

about seventy percent more text on a page of the current number than was possible on a page set according to the old format. This number is the equivalent of a one hundred twelve page number in the old format.

The paper mills have just announced that they can supply us with only forty-pound paper in place of the forty-five pound paper we have used for the last two issues. This further contributes to making this issue thinner than usual.

By this change in format, the Society is using its limited resources to the maximum. Due to greater economies in printing, it will be possible to continue publishing as many papers as we have presented in the past.

Costs of scientific journals have been studied by a committee whose report advises precisely the changes which appear in this number of the journal. It is quite probable that each dollar spent in printing now buys the maximum amount.

Substantial savings should also be realized in printing memoirs, some of which may run to considerable size. Thus it should be easier to publish these supplemental numbers, a condition which should please authors, readers, and the Treasurer.

We regret that it has been necessary to make this change, but we are confident that it will meet with approval. In last analysis, we have little choice. A saving of more than one hundred dollars in the cost of a number like the last October issue can be effected by our new format. No one can afford to neglect such an opportunity, particularly when his pocketbook is chronically deflated.

DOUGLAS S. BYERS, *Editor*