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EDITORIALS

DIVERSE INTERESTS. Our Vice-President has hit upon a particularly happy note in the editorial published in this number. The Society for American Archaeology is fortunate in having members from so many professions. Much of the strength of the Society may come from this very diversity of interests. It is a pleasure to present our Vice President, Mr. Glenn A. Black of the Indiana Historical Society.

ONE has only to glance through the back numbers of *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*, or the tables of contents of recent archaeological reports, to be impressed by the many avenues of approach now being traveled by the professional archaeologist in his search for truth. Practically all sciences, some not even remotely related to archaeology, are being solicited for assistance.

Who would have dreamed, at the turn of the century, that an astronomer would make a momentous contribution to prehistory? Who would have dreamed, a few years ago, that sun dried-brick could be made to divulge the secret of the flora of long ago, that clays of a site could be made to indicate which wares were indigenous and which were not, or that the microscope could show not only that certain copper pieces were heat treated but also the degree of heat applied for successful working? In the field of each professional archaeologist there are "acres of diamonds" waiting to be mined.

Happily, the membership of the Society for American Archaeology is made up not only of specialists in the field of prehistory but of men and women whose interest in the subject takes the form of an avocation rather than a vocation. They might be called amateurs, yet many are distinguished in their own field.

In archaeology there is great need for the sympathetic ear of the geologist, soil expert, chemist, botanist, zoölogist, and metallurgist, to mention only a few, all of whom can be found in every state. It has been the writer's experience that full co-operation from all may be expected even though they may not be specifically interested in our problem. To

the chemist I must be a tyro of the first order when I go to him with my chemical problem. We cannot all be chemists; neither can we all be professional archaeologists. Members of the Society are bonded together with a common interest—prehistory. Through this common interest, collective attack upon our problem becomes possible. Through the medium of *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY* and the Notebook the results of various methods, techniques and approaches become common property.

This organization is unique, I believe, in so much as it provides the non-professional with the firm foundation of scientific professionalism necessary to raise the level of his efforts above amateurism. The non-professional, in turn, may provide the professional with ideas, methods and solutions that often originate outside the bounds of specialization. I sincerely appreciate the privilege of being Vice-President of an organization in which the members have such a rare opportunity to profit mutually from their association.

Glenn A. Black

NEUTRALITY. Since the last number of *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY* appeared, the dreaded war has burst forth in Europe. Fortunately we are removed from that conflict by thousands of miles. How long we are able to keep out of it depends in large part on the degree of neutrality exhibited by us all. Our thoughts cannot be neutral, but our acts, and even our speech can be made utterly neutral if we but make the effort.

Among us there are persons with names which may indicate that they or their ancestors were born in one of the belligerent countries. It is well to remember that names and allegiance, or even sympathy, do not always go hand in hand. Let us remember to judge our fellows, scientists as well as laymen, by their acts and not by their names, as was done in the years from 1914 to 1919.