
Random Reflections of the Editor

One has only to read the following accounts to find erroneous a published statement that archeological work has been halted for the duration of the war. The reports of the member societies include notices of excavations, publications, discussions, lectures, field trips and what not. If this much is reported in brief, think of the interest in archeology and the work accomplished which does not become included in these reports. It is fun to look around and see what is actually going on; a more detailed survey of the activities would amount to a real contribution because we would discover some ideas which are not widely known at present.

It seems to me that there is a trend, in local societies, toward meeting more often during the periods when field work is not practical. This is a great thing, for the inevitable conversations with our colleagues bring to light fresh points of view and new ideas about the work we are doing. Of equal importance is the increasing number of lectures reported by the societies. Even though such lectures may deal with subjects which are not directly related to American archeology, and though perhaps we forget most of all of the details of what was said, we do take away from the discussions an indefinable something which is sure to improve our point of view.

It is particularly gratifying to note that excavations are being made; collections being studied; and publications planned. Such work provides, of course, basic archeological information. I believe it is true that every excavation, no matter how small, results in some progress. Duplication of previous discoveries serves to substantiate opinions, and additional details widen the horizons of our archeological knowledge.

These very generalized observations suffice to indicate that archeology is a growing concern along the eastern seaboard. It covers a wide variety of interests and methods of approach. Furthermore, the work involves many different but interlocking archeological problems. For example, the results in Massachusetts may not be fully explained until they are compared with the prehistory of New Jersey, and developments in the latter State may have been contingent upon events in Virginia. Under such circumstances it seems possible that the Eastern States Archeological Federation can be of service to each and every one of us. It is possible that future meetings can aid in the dissemination of information of value to everyone. Perhaps this bulletin can be expanded to include more specific details of our work. I wonder how the member Societies would react to a request for more detailed information? Such might make it possible to compile, each year, a "finding list" which would enable people to obtain more easily specific information from members of neighboring societies. If something of this sort could be worked out, the Bulletin might be more useful. If anyone has any ideas concerning this suggestion or opinions how this Bulletin could be improved, the Editor, for one, would welcome them.

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