
Evidences of a Pre-Ceramic Cultural Horizon in Smith County, Kansas

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suggested: Use typewriter paper on which perforations divide each sheet into ten sections. Or, better still, use rolls of paper 4 inches or 5 inches wide, with perforations 3 inches apart. Type one entry on each section, and when the index is completed tear the sections apart and arrange the slips alphabetically. These slips are a handy working size, can readily be edited and rearranged, and then may be sent directly to the printer. This method avoids putting a card or slip into the typewriter and taking it out for each entry.

MABEL HUNT DOYLE
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EVIDENCES OF A PRE-CERAMIC CULTURAL HORIZON IN SMITH COUNTY, KANSAS

A CULTURAL horizon, buried some ten feet or more below the top of a twenty-one foot terrace along the banks of a small intermittent stream in Smith County, Kansas, has been under investigation by a University of Kansas field party under the direction of Dr. L. C. Eiseley, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology at the latter institution. The archeological material recovered consists of numerous flakes and rejects, a few scrapers and a single point. The material is intermixed with the charred and fossilized remains of bison and other animals. Although the material suggests more than a casual occupation of the site, no evidences of pottery or agriculture were secured.

According to Dr. H. T. U. Smith, assistant pro-

fessor of geology at the University of Kansas, who conducted geological investigations at the site, the geomorphic changes which have taken place involve the following stages: First, a deposition of over ten feet of alluvium above the site; second, a lowering of the local base level and the formation of a flood plain fourteen feet below the top of the fill; third, a second lowering of base level and the development of a new flood plain twenty-one feet below the top of the original fill. This flood plain has a width of a hundred yards and is entering middle maturity. The geological evidence suggests that these changes could not have taken place much under a minimum of five thousand years ago, and the site may actually be older.

Inasmuch as the point recovered is not Folsom, but a well-worked artifact of a size suggesting its use with the bow, and as, in addition, there is no reason to refer the bison remains recovered to an extinct species, it seems reasonable to assign the site a dating later than the Folsom culture, but predating by a considerable margin the appearance of agriculture in the central plains. The importance of the site lies in its contribution of additional evidence of the existence of nomadic bison hunters in the central plains below the recognized ceramic cultures, but evidently later in time than the Folsom horizon, judging both from the probable use of the bow and the associated remains of a living species of bison. At the same time, because of its genuine geological antiquity, the site is an added check on the postglacial, early Recent fauna associated with man in the Plains region.

LOREN C. EISELEY

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

TRAVELS OF A PLANT EXPLORER

The World was my Garden. Travels of a Plant Explorer. By DAVID FAIRCHILD, assisted by ELIZABETH and ALFRED KAY. Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York and London. Pp. 494. Many illustrations. 1938.

A MORE charming and interesting autobiography could scarcely be imagined. Fairchild is not known to the world from any great discovery or generalization, such as those of Darwin, Mendel and the Curies; but taken all together, his contributions to horticulture and thus to human welfare have been so great that he deserves to rank with those who have done most for their country and the world. The present book, giving a connected account of his activities, is especially valuable as showing what has been done, not only by Fairchild but also by those who cooperated with him, to all of whom full and generous credit is given. The results of all this work may be found in every part of the United States, where introduced plants are growing

and producing increasingly valuable crops. It would be impossible to estimate the value of the products which have been made available to us through Fairchild, or to say what limit there may be to their increasing value, as they become better known, and the conditions of their cultivation better understood.

How are such men produced? Fairchild says:

Going back through the mists of sixty-odd years, I realize that I both had the suitable heredity and was born into an environment adapted to the development of a naturalist or horticulturist. In other words, my path was almost predestined at my birth. I do not believe that I consciously chose its direction, but rather wandered down its attractive way unconscious where I was going. . . . Had I the choice of a place to be born, a family to be born into, and an environment with which to surround myself, I could hardly have chosen more wisely than Fate chose for me in 1869 when I was born at Michigan State College. My parents belonged to the class to whom the intellectual future of this country meant more than anything