

ancient people. One other region is to be found in America where nature has assisted in the preservation of the remains. This is in the great north-western section of Argentina. Outside of these localities, owing to the disintegration of perishable artifacts, the story of archeology must remain decidedly incomplete. In Mexico the Spaniards found a culture that was more highly developed than the cultures that existed north of the Rio Grande. Painted records had been used perhaps for centuries before the landing of the old conquistadors. Ideographic records of conquests, astronomical and astrological observations, and of general events in the lives of the people were depicted on deerskin or maguey fiber. These "codices," some of which retain the annotations made by the early padres, with the elaborately carved records on stelae and other stone monuments, have proved to be of wonderful value in the study of Mexican archeology, but consecutive records, histories, poems, rituals, such as are recorded on the cylinders of Babylon or on the papyri of the Egyptians, do not exist in the New World, and, having no such heritage, the student must evolve the story of the various prehistoric tribes from what they have left behind them. Hence the need of continued scientific study of the glyphs and codices of Mexico and Central America and the investigation of the mounds, the caves, the middens, and other places wherein may be found objects that may add to our knowledge. The interrelation of objects may prove of prime importance in the determination of the use to which they were put by the particular people of the region, and it is this gathering and correlation of facts that will enable our investigators, through analogy, to arrive at definite conclusions and thus prepare for the historian the skeletal frame upon which the life history of our aborigines may be built.

FIELD EXPEDITIONS

The first actual field collecting was begun in 1904, when Mr. Frank D. Utley visited Porto Rico in the interest of Mr. Heye. He succeeded in obtaining a wooden *duho*, or seat, several stone collars, a number of petaloid celts, and other stone implements. During the same year the writer carried on exploration work in the *yacatas*, or mounds, of the *tierra caliente* of Michoacan, Mexico, where many pottery vessels and other objects were found associated with the burials. In 1905, Mr. Utley collected in Panama and Costa Rica, but the first comprehensive plans for extended exploration work were not formulated until 1906. At that time Prof. Marshall H. Saville of Columbia University planned and commenced this work. It had for its object an exhaustive survey of a certain portion of the Andean and coast regions of the northwestern portion of South America, beginning with the southernmost limits of Ecuador and extending northward to the Isthmus of Panama. A continuation of the work was planned to include the northern and northeastern parts of South America and the islands of the West Indies.