

Reviews and Notices

Prehistoric Antiquities of Indiana. By Eli Lilly. Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, 1937. Pp. xiii, 293, illustrated, \$5.00.

One is seldom privileged to review a publication which combines so many outstanding innovations. This *de luxe* volume will serve as a lasting memento to the author; bring superlative commendations to the Indiana Historical Society; and establish a unique standard for archeological publications. It will give to the present generation in the Hoosier State a review of past archeological records, and enable everyone to grasp the full significance of the prehistoric heritage in the state.

The author has very modestly set forth in the Preface the real purpose of this book: "The object in writing . . . was to interest more of the people of Indiana in the relics of our vanished predecessors, and to stimulate inquiry into the prehistory and archaeology of our state. The pursuit of this subject has led the author along such pleasant paths that he is desirous of sharing them with others." The reviewer was privileged to participate in the fascinating work of recovering a very small part of the prehistory of Indiana. He feels it a duty, therefore, to point out that the science of anthropology, especially archeology, has grown by leaps and bounds not only in Indiana, but in the entire northern Mississippi Valley because of Mr. Lilly's enthusiastic response to the problems confronting scientists in this region.

Indiana has now passed the initial step of outlining the important prehistoric problems within the state and we can look forward to the fruitful phase which will follow under the expert guidance of the archaeological staff. Much is yet to be accomplished, but with the highest hurdle cleared and inches to spare, the remaining problems will be taken in a natural stride.

There are two methods now being followed by the professional archaeologist in obtaining a true picture of the prehistory of a state. One method is to sample as many of the outstanding sites as possible in order to obtain an outline or "bird's-eye view" of the prehistoric picture. Another method is to survey systematically the state by county units or stream valleys, making sufficient excavations to obtain a cross sec-

tion within these units of the aboriginal material cultures. The latter requires planned research, often unlimited patience on the part of the investigator and sponsor, but in the end will give the most accurate history of the first inhabitants. It is a pleasure to report that Indiana has willingly responded to the latter approach. *Prehistoric Antiquities of Indiana* presents in a form unsurpassed a compilation based on the work of various investigators whose programs of research have been based on systematically surveying the more important river valleys, using the county as a unit. This may serve as a model for other state organizations, especially when the dry initial reports are so entertainingly summarized.

Members of the Indiana Historical Society will cherish the volume even though they have no interest in the re-creation of prehistory. This quarto volume is beautifully printed by The Lakeside Press on Ivory Wove Linweave text paper with 14 pt. Baskerville type. It contains eighty-eight pages of illustrations produced by the Donnelley Deeptone process, a recent development of deep-etched lithography. The end papers carry a panoramic view of The Great Circle at Mounds Park, now well protected as a state park near Anderson, Indiana. The illustrations have been faithfully reproduced from prints made by an expert photographer. The artistic arrangement of the specimens is quite unusual, especially for archeological reports. The mounting on such backgrounds as white sand, bear robes, tree sections, old survey maps of archeological sites are quite effective. But the arrangement of discoidals on an illustration of a carved shell gorget depicting the use of discoidals and carved stone tobacco pipes mounted on a pressed specimen of *Nicotiana attenuata* produces very pleasant, attractive, and novel illustrations when compared to the more usual black and white reproductions. The chapter initials very appropriately show design elements from carved bones recovered in some of the Ohio Hopewell mounds. All of this is handsomely bound between green and brown buckram cloth boards, with gold-stamped front cover and backbone. One must see the book to appreciate it fully.

The story told by *Prehistoric Antiquities of Indiana* is just as entertainingly written as the format suggests. It combines modern viewpoints derived from the sound theories

upon which they are based. Any difference of opinion that might exist between the author and other specialists in the field is of such a nature that even the professionals are divided as to the correct solution. Mr. Lilly touches upon controversial subjects and sublimates the theories of all in noteworthy style. The abundant use of footnotes not only clarifies details, but credits everyone who has contributed anything to the archaeology of the state.

The first three chapters have the following headings:

“The Original Antiquity of the American Indian”

“A Tentative Outline of the Prehistory of Indiana”

(To the reviewer this is the most important chapter and should be read not only by the archeologist, but by everyone interested in the history of this state. The outline is one of the most clear cut and up-to-date presentations of these problems.)

“Some striking Prehistoric Sites in Indiana”

(Herein is reviewed all previous research. It can serve as an excellent guide for the expansion of state parks and recreation areas which would preserve these remnants of a prehistoric civilization.)

The remaining seven chapters deal primarily with descriptions, classifications and illustrations of the various types of artifacts from the entire state.

Another important contribution and a subject which first brought Mr. Lilly to the attention of archeologists is an archaeological bibliography of Indiana, which he began many years ago and published in May, 1932. The bibliography included in this volume is revised and considerably enlarged. All publications, after the more general ones, have been alphabetically arranged according to author and the counties within the state.

In closing, the reviewer wishes to offer his sincere congratulations to Mr. Lilly for establishing this high standard for archaeological publications and to express complete satisfaction in the methods used by him to place the study of Indiana archaeology before the public and scholars in such a handsome form.

FRANK M. SETZLER.