

## EXHIBIT TRACES DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHWEST POTTERY

BY PAUL S. MARTIN

CHIEF CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

The Story Behind Southwestern Pottery—so reads the label on an exhibit of a new type recently installed in the Southwestern Indian Hall (Hall 7). This exhibit is designed to show, in graphic form, the relationships existing among the varied pottery types in this rich archaeological field.

Horizontal lines on the exhibition screen, representing dates ranging from A.D. 500 to A.D. 1700, give chronological data on the specimens which are arranged also on vertical lines in accordance with their family or culture branches. The dated sequence indicates the changes and developments in the prehistoric cultures of the peoples who made these wares. Branches are divided into time phases, each of which includes several types of pottery, both plain and painted. In most instances, each phase is here represented only by its most typical ware.

This exhibit is planned on the basis of a classification system developed at Gila Pueblo, Globe, Arizona, but it is unique because it uses many whole pieces of pottery, instead of sherds alone.

Pottery, in its earliest form, was probably sun-dried. Learning to bake the pottery in a fire constituted the first advance in the potter's art. This fired pottery was plain and unpainted, and although it has been modified and manufactured for utilitarian purposes up to the present day, it is shown in this exhibit only where it is the sole type known at any given date. The final development was the addition of painted decoration, with which this exhibit is mainly concerned.

The two great peoples represented by specimens in the exhibit are the Hohokam, and the Basket Maker-Pueblo Indians. From the beginnings they made, there were developed the pottery types associated with such modern tribes as the Hopi, Acoma, Zuni, Puma, and Papago.

## FLORIDA EXPEDITION COLLECTS MORE THAN 800 SPECIMENS

Approximately 800 specimens of land, fresh-water, and marine animals were collected by Dr. Fritz Haas, Curator of Lower Invertebrates, and Staff Taxidermist Leon L. Walters, during the first month of their current expedition in southern Florida, according to reports they have made to the Director. Included in the collections is material for use in proposed exhibits of certain kinds of crustaceans. Mr. Walters has made plaster molds of some of these in the field, so that when reproductions are eventually made they will have the advantage of being modeled from the equivalent of fresh specimens.

At the time of sending their reports, Messrs. Haas and Walters indicated that they had completed work in the vicinity of Englewood, Florida, ahead of schedule, and were about to proceed to Sanibel Island for further collecting and research.

## Another \$2,000 Contribution from Mrs. J. N. Raymond

For the second time since the beginning of this year, Mrs. James Nelson Raymond recently contributed \$2,000 toward the support of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures, which she established in 1925 with an endowment of \$500,000. Her previous 1939 gift, of the same amount, was made in February. The supplementary contributions of this type which Mrs. Raymond has frequently made in the years since her original foundation gift now total more than \$67,000.

The work of the Raymond Foundation, so valuable to the school children of Chicago, is continuously being augmented and improved. In addition to its regular functions, the Foundation during July and August will present a special summer series of free motion picture programs for children, of which details will be found elsewhere in this issue of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

Mammals of the Chicago area are exhibited in an alcove south of the east entrance to Hall 17.

## FAMOUS FORGE FROM PHILIPPINES EXHIBITED AT MUSEUM

The people of the Salitan River valley are the most skillful iron workers in northern Luzon (Philippine Islands), and their products are widespread throughout the region. Perhaps the most famous forge was that of Balbalasang, which was secured by a Field Museum expedition and is shown here, as it is exhibited in Hall H, together with faithful representations of the people at their work. The people are of mixed blood, chiefly Kalinga, with some Igorot and Tinguian.

The smithies are small structures, with grass roofs and no sides. At one end is the bellows, consisting of two upright wooden cylinders in which pistons of wood packed with chicken feathers and corn husks are worked alternately up and down. Bamboo tubes lead out from the wooden block in which the cylinders stand, and come close together in a tube of fire clay which runs into the charcoal fire. Nearby is a stone anvil. The white hot metal, as it comes from the fire, is handled with iron pincers by the real smith, who

## PALEONTOLOGICAL EXPEDITION REPORTS NOTABLE SUCCESS

Collections, remarkable for their size and variety, have been made by the paleontological expedition which has been working since April in Oligocene, Miocene, and Pliocene fossil beds of South Dakota. Mr. Paul O. McGrew, Assistant in Paleontology, who is leader of the party, reports that excavations in the vicinity of Big Spring Canyon have thus far yielded skulls, skeletons, and partial skeletons of extinct rhinoceroses, camels, three-toed horses, antelopes, dogs, a peccary, a horned rodent, a beaver, a sabertooth cat, and other creatures that inhabited the American west in prehistoric times, some as far back as forty million years ago. The country being explored is close to a Pine Ridge Indian reservation. Early work of the expedition was hampered by snow, and recently severe rainstorms have caused difficulties, but work has progressed satisfactorily despite these obstacles.

When work has been completed at the South Dakota sites, the party plans to transfer operations to a site near Agate, Nebraska. Mr. McGrew is accompanied by Mr. Orville Gilpin, of Chicago, and Mr. John Schmidt, of Homewood, Illinois.

The so-called double coconut of the Seychelles Islands, which has the largest seed in the plant kingdom, is shown in Hall 25.



Philippine Forge Group

Exhibit illustrating methods of skillful iron workers on the island of Luzon.

woman is represented as having just brought water to the forge for this purpose.

The weapons, completed and under construction, which are shown in the exhibit, were in the smithy at the time of its acquisition, and are the last objects that were made in it prior to its removal to Chicago.





Martin, Paul S. 1939. "Exhibit Traces Development of Southwest Pottery." *Field Museum news* 10(7), 5-5.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/25712>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/364598>

**Holding Institution**

Field Museum of Natural History Library

**Sponsored by**

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the Chicago Field Museum.  
For information contact [dcc@library.uiuc.edu](mailto:dcc@library.uiuc.edu).

Rights Holder: Field Museum of Natural History

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.