

North African influence from the Capsian — an hypothesis of dubious value at the present time.

Publishers nowadays, as the pool of classics which can be reprinted dries up, are notoriously eager to transform virtually any hardcover book into a paperback if there is any chance of tapping the student or popular market. As a teacher of this subject I am continually hamstrung by the lack of a good, detailed text in English which can serve as the nucleus for courses involving the Palaeolithic. But if this book is intended as such an introduction to the Old Stone Age, as its sub-title suggests, it certainly does not fill the bill as far as university students are concerned. If meant for laymen it might be more acceptable, though I prefer to recommend a book such as J.G.D. Clark's *World Prehistory — An Outline* which, although treating the Palaeolithic in a much shorter space, is far more up to date. Putting out slightly revised editions of old stand-bys is no longer good enough. To paraphrase W.W. Howells, we need not revised versions of old books but new books by revised authors. The attitude of the publishers in the present case is well demonstrated on the cover: with the whole range of Palaeolithic art to select from, they blithely abandon any attempt at consistency and choose to decorate the cover with what looks to me like a modern artist's version of a Bronze Age hunting scene.

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Papago Indian Pottery. Bernard L. FONTANA, William J. ROBINSON, Charles W. CORMACK, Ernest E. LEAVITT, Jr. The American Ethnological Society. Viola E. Garfield, Editor, 1962, xviii-163 pp., 129 illustrations. \$5.75.

The four authors have produced a very useful study of pottery made by the Papago Indians of southern Arizona. The Papago are an interesting group archaeologically, since they are close relatives of the Pima who occupy the land around the famous "greathouse" ruin of Casa Grande. There has been much discussion as to whether the Pimans (Pima and Papago) could have built the greathouse, could have been its destroyers, or whether they were simply humble residents of the area pushed into the background by successive conquerors. It was hoped that a careful study of Papago pottery and a comparison with that made by Casa Grande people would throw light on the problem. The authors also felt that a description of pottery making and disposal would be useful in the study of Papago social life, both past and present.

There are some thirty potters scattered among the Papago villages. The authors interviewed them all, and one they watched and photographed through

the whole process. I was interested to see that this process has changed very little since I saw it thirty years ago, in spite of the new materials available. One old custom seems to have lapsed. That is the apology to the clay when it is dug and the promise that the potter will not dig roughly or take more than she needs. Papagos made this comradely explanation to all things in nature — clay, rocks, plants or animals. "I need you for my work," they would say gently, for among the Desert People, even men did not raise their voices.

After the clay is brought home (probably in a car), the process of sifting, moistening, tempering and molding goes on. Students of primitive pottery made without a wheel generally classify the methods as either coiling or paddle and anvil. I had not supposed the two could be combined until I saw the Papago. They shape the bottom of the pot over a mold, then thin and enlarge it by paddle and anvil. That is, a stone is held inside the vessel wall while a wooden paddle taps it on the outside. When this starting portion of the pot is ready, the main body is laid on by coiling, that is, building up the walls by ropes of clay laid one above the other. This is the method used in the Pueblos, which were once considered typical of the whole Southwest. The Pueblo potter smooths her pot walls on the outside with a stone, but the Papago resorts again to paddle and anvil. Each step of the work is described and photographed so that an amateur could probably produce a fair sample of Papago pottery by following the directions.

Papago pottery is not finely textured or highly decorated. The coarse clay of which it is made turns red or reddish brown after firing. Rarely, it is slipped with hematite or chalk. The decoration, when there is any, is curving black lines made from a decoction of mesquite bark and gum. The shapes made for Papago use are the same which I saw thirty years ago and which have probably been the same for centuries. There is the swollen bodied olla, or water jar, made porous on purpose so that the water will evaporate and thus keep reasonably cool. There are the narrow necked canteens, meant for carrying water from the spring in the woman's carrying net. There are the bean pots, the storage jars, the little duck shaped vessel from whose beak the baby drinks.

This pottery, in the authors' opinion, shows little similarity to that of the Hohokam or All-Gone-People as the Pimans call them. On this subject there has been much discussion which can only be ended by further excavation. One reasonable opinion is that of Di Peso, who has done much excavation in this area and in Mexico. According to him, Pimans have been residents of the area since, perhaps, the beginning of our era. The Hohokam arrived from Mexico, perhaps around A.D. 1000, and took over the river valleys, where they enlarged the irrigation canals begun by the Pima. Some time between A.D. 1250 and 1300 they were driven out, perhaps by the Pimans. Other invaders from the north were the greathouse builders who also were driven out. The culture of both these groups was decidedly different from that of the

indigenous Pimans. Other archaeologists disagree, and it is plain that more data are needed.

The authors were interested in the present uses of Papago pottery which are of two very different sorts. The old styles just described are bought or, rather, traded for by Papago housewives. This gives opportunity for social communication by both potters and purchasers. It keeps the potter from feeling left behind as her husband deserts the old way of life for wage work. Potters are also beginning to make knickknacks for sale to tourists and the money received is a further help to their budgets and their self esteem.

One young woman has gone completely modern. A ceramist visiting at the nearby Catholic mission bought her a kiln and gave her metal molds. The mission built her a studio which is warm in winter so that she can work the year round. (The old style potters work out of doors in the summer sun). This innovator makes some pots in the old shapes, but also she molds ash trays and little images. Too, she makes candlesticks and saints' images for the church. Other women, too, are being encouraged to try altar furnishings, and this may point to a new opening for Papago ceramics.

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Les Singes actuels et fossiles. E. GENET-VARCIN. Paris, Boubée, 1963. 240 pp., 97 figs., 24 pl., 6 tabl. — 60 NF.

S'il y a plus de deux siècles maintenant que l'ordre des Primates a été constitué par Linné, il faut reconnaître que notre information à son sujet, tant sur le plan de la néontologie que de son histoire phylétique est longtemps restée déficiente. Dans ce secteur paléontologique en particulier, le premier primate fossile n'est découvert qu'en 1836 dans le Miocène des Siwaliks: *Semnopithecus subhimalayanus*, suivi bientôt il est vrai par les documents plus extensifs exhumés dans le sud-ouest européen à la faveur des fouilles de Gervais et Lartet. Mais il fallut attendre les explorations systématiques du Paléogène des Montagnes Rocheuses et celles du Fayoum d'Égypte, les expéditions américaines en Inde, Birmanie et Mongolie, et les prospections des horizons subfossilières de Madagascar pour voir se dégager les lignes maîtresses de l'évolution du groupe des Primates.

Si le branle fut lent et tardif, en revanche un matériel étonnant a été accumulé dans les dernières décades: de nouveaux champs de fouille sont exploités en Afrique orientale (sur les bords du grand Rift et jusqu'aux rives du lac Rodolphe), aussi bien qu'en Extrême Orient, dans le Kwangsi, le secteur de Liu-Cheng et la province de Honan; tandis que d'anciens gisements sont réétudiés dans le bassin de Vienne, le lignite de Toscane, le Thanétien de Cernay, le Paléocène du Wyoming et du Montana. Les documents nouveaux