

The Human Skeleton: A Manual For Archaeologists. J.E. ANDERSON. National Museum of Canada. Ottawa: The Queen's Printer: 1962, v-164 pp., 63 figs. \$2.00.

The archaeologist, when excavating remains of human occupation and industry, in search of cultural evidences from the structures and artifacts, often comes upon actual physical remains of the people whose works he is studying. These may be formal burials, with associated grave-goods, sometimes fairly complete and in order. Frequently, however, the graves have been disturbed by later comers and the bones scattered and broken. In still other cases, there may have been only a very summary interment, perhaps of already-disjointed bones.

In any event, it is likely to be the archaeologist who first uncovers human remains and, while he may not be primarily interested in them, especially if associated objects are lacking, he ought to regard the bone-material as possible treasure, held in trust for his colleagues, the physical anthropologists. Without his first intervention, these would probably never have come to know of the existence of the finds. It is not every archaeological excavation that can afford to include a bone-specialist, pure and simple, among its members. If the bodies are numerous, or their disposition complicated by disturbances, it is obviously wise to call in a physical anthropologist, if any is available, but in many cases the archaeologist, alone, will have to assume the responsibility for recording the bones *in situ*, extracting them from the ground, preserving, packing and transporting them, so that the bone-specialist may hope to extract from them, at home, as much useful information as he might have obtained could he have been present in person at the site of their discovery.

All this inevitably involves the excavator in the acquisition of a certain amount of anatomical knowledge, in addition to the skills of his own specialty. Where, as in the New World, archaeology figures only as a part, if an important one, of courses in anthropology, the field archaeologist is necessarily first an anthropologist and will evidently possess at least the requisite minimum of anatomical knowledge. In the Old World, however, archaeology is regarded as a distinct discipline, so that by no means every excavator has, during his training, been introduced to notions of physical anthropology. Most, obviously, have to acquire the necessary information at some point in their careers. The newer generation of archaeologists will, we trust, not suffer from this handicap.

On both sides of the Atlantic equally — and indeed anywhere in the English-speaking world where archaeological excavations are carried out — Mr. Anderson's book will find useful employment, whether on the desk of the student anthropologist who is learning his trade or in the bush-shirt pocket of the more senior excavator, who has never before encountered, or forgotten, the essentials of human osteology.

In 164 pages there are 18 brief chapters, of which the first 8 (just over half the book) are descriptive of the various parts of the human skeleton. So

much is already available in other works though perhaps not so pointedly and succinctly presented. The second half is the more original part of the manual, dealing as it does with the observation, measurement and study of the remains and their interpretation as anthropological documents.

There is an introduction to metrical techniques, as well as to qualitative observations, and chapters on the determination of individual bodily proportions, age, sex and the reconstruction of stature. The demographic aspects of the data are not neglected.

Morphological variations and anomalies and pathological changes are described and illustrated, the first time, I believe, that much of this information has been digested with the archaeological reader in view. A good deal, at least, was new to this reviewer, though it may be well known to anthropologists with a medical, rather than an archaeological background. Pre-historic surgery (trepanation) and deliberate skull-deformation are also mentioned.

Throughout, points of particular importance are emphasized and leading questions are put to the reader to lead onward his consideration of the implications of his observations.

Text-illustrations are plentiful, often at natural size (or larger, in the case of the teeth) and are frequently excellent. Their quality, however, is very variable. Figure 28, for instance (an 'exploded' skull, viewed frontally and from below) is confusing owing to lack of sufficient tone-contrast in the shading. In the Figures of the main long bones, on the other hand, there is considerable loss of detail through overdoing the strength of the line.

A more serious criticism concerns the lack of sufficient attention in the drawings to proportion and scale. In Figure 1 the skull is too large for the rest of the skeleton (only 6.5, instead of 7.5 heads to the height); the pelvis is very badly drawn (the iliac crests much too low, the acetabula far too widely separated). The legs are too short, the lumbar vertebrae too long. The whole impression is that of abnormal proportions. If a sketch, not to exact scale, was intended, the fact should somewhere have been stated. Otherwise, one is entitled to expect a higher degree of precision in a work of this sort.

In Figure 9 (ventral view of the scapula), the apparent depth of the subscapular fossa and the prominence of the two oblique ridges in it are greatly exaggerated. In figure 16 (two aspects of a femur), even the overall dimensions do not agree and there are manifest discrepancies in proportion. Other examples could be given of similar defects.

These criticisms are not mere carping. So excellent a text is worthy of more uniformly careful drawings — as excellent as some, e.g. of hand and foot, indeed are. A scale with each Figure (so obviating minor inaccuracy in the designed size as printed) would be helpful, but in no case is the scale even mentioned.

Despite these strictures, the book is one that can be strongly recommended. It will prove of great help to many, who might not otherwise find the study of bones of much interest.

Jan W. CORNWALL
University of London

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An Introduction to the study of Southwestern Archaeology with a Preliminary account of the Excavations at Pecos. Alfred Vincent KIDDER. Précédé de *A Summary of Southwestern Archaeology Today* d'IRVING ROUSE. New Haven and London, Yale University Press. 1962. ix-377 pages. 50 planches, 31 photographies.

Cet ouvrage de Kidder, considéré comme le doyen des archéologues américains, fut publié pour la première fois en 1924. Depuis lors il est resté un des classiques de l'archéologie du Nouveau Monde, et en ce qui concerne la préhistoire du sud-ouest américain il présente aujourd'hui encore la meilleure synthèse sur les Pueblos. Lors de sa parution Kidder fit part de son intention de le faire suivre d'une œuvre plus complète, mais malheureusement d'autres engagements l'en ont toujours empêché. C'est la raison pour laquelle la réédition de cet ouvrage doit être accueillie avec beaucoup de satisfaction.

Il est bon de rappeler que le sud-ouest américain, qui comprend les états du Nouveau Mexique, de l'Arizona, la partie sud de l'Utah et de sud-ouest du Colorado, a toujours occupé une place d'honneur en anthropologie américaine autant dans le domaine de l'ethnologie que celui de l'archéologie. Cette région est l'une des mieux étudiées au Nouveau Monde et de plus elle permet de retracer l'évolution de sa culture depuis le passé le plus lointain jusqu'à nos jours.

Il est clair que nos connaissances sur la préhistoire du sud-ouest américain se sont beaucoup accrues depuis 1924. Les nombreuses découvertes qui sont venues s'ajouter à celle de Kidder pendant ces quatre dernières décades sont résumées par Rouse qui auparavant prend soin de redéfinir certains concepts dont le sens a changé. Par exemple le terme "archaïque" employé par Kidder pour désigner des groupes sédentaires préhistoriques est aujourd'hui appliqué aux groupes nomadiques préhistoriques. Dans son résumé Rouse passe rapidement en revue les principales traditions culturelles du sud-ouest, puis établit la chronologie culturelle depuis l'apparition de l'homme jusqu'à la conquête espagnole. D'après Rouse c'est aux environs de 24.000 ans avant J.-C. que les premières activités humaines devraient se placer dans le sud-ouest américain, mais la première tradition culturelle spécifiquement identifiée est celle des *Paleo-Indiens* (14.000 - 4.000 ans avant J.-C.) spécialisés dans la chasse du gros gibier. Elle fut suivie par celle du *Désert* (9.000 ans avant J.-C. jusqu'au début de l'ère chrétienne) caractérisée par des groupes nomadiques ou semi-