

REFERENCE

BURIAL OF THE CALUSA INDIANS

by Henry B. Collins

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HILLEN WADLEY BRANCH
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Indianapolis on March 26. At the fourth annual Hoosier Salon 76 paintings were sold for \$8,500. In four years the Salon has sold directly \$51,500 worth of paintings.

NEW MEXICO PRIZE WINNERS

At San Antonio's second annual Competitive Exhibition of Art, prizes of \$100 each were awarded among others to Oscar E. Berninghaus and W. Herbert Dunton of the Taos Society; Edward Eisenlohr and Joseph Birren who spend their summers in Santa Fe.

AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

BURIALS IN CANYON DEL MUERTO

Earl Morris, formerly with the School of American Research, but now at Chichen Itza in Yucatan with the Carnegie Institution Expedition, reports that in the talus of the Mummy Cave in the Canyon del Muerto he found a burial containing both pottery and baskets of the so-called Post Basket Maker period. The four baskets found in the burial were unlike any found during the preceding four seasons' work in the Canyon. They were miniature carrying baskets and are now with the excellent Southwestern collections of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

BURIAL OF THE CALUSA INDIANS

Prehistoric inhabitants of southern Florida may not have known the fountain of youth that the Spaniards sought in Florida, but they were an extraordinarily healthy lot, judging by bones which have been taken from a burial mound near Ft. Myers. Only one diseased bone was found in the mound, according to Henry B. Collins, Jr., anthropologist of the U. S. National Museum, who excavated at the site. Mr. Collins has just returned to Washington with 80 skulls from this mound. The skulls are pronounced those of the Calusa Indians, the tribe which first greeted Ponce de Leon and routed the youth-seeking Spaniard with a shower of arrows. The Calusa had the reputation of being cannibals and fierce warriors, but they were among the first Indians to be wiped out by the white man, and by the time of the American Revolution they were practically extinct. "Remains of

these extinct Indians have been extremely rare, and very little has been known about them," said Mr. Collins, in describing his expedition. "The skulls show that the Calusa were not particularly large or powerfully built people, as were tribes of northern Florida." A strange discovery from the mound was that only half a dozen of the 80 burials were children. Whether this means that these Indians were more successful than most tribes in raising their children, or whether babies who did not survive were disposed of in some other way, cannot be determined, Mr. Collins said. No Indian possessions were found in the burial mound, with the exception of some fragments of pottery. These broken pieces of pots and jars had been stuck in the ground all around the heads of most of the Indians, probably with some magic rite. The burial mound was outlined by a border of conch shells over two feet wide, the white shells making a sharp contrast against the black muck of the mangrove swamp. Further excavations were made in a number of large shell heaps, some of them 30 feet high, by Mr. Collins, but these kitchen dumps of the Calusa revealed no traces of cannibalism or other unusual practises.

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT MAYA MOSAIC DISK

Turquoises and other rare and beautiful objects which were buried beneath an altar in Chichen Itza some 700 years ago have been discovered by Earl Morris, archaeologist of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and formerly with the School of American Research. A telegraphic report from Mr. Morris states that the space beneath the altar has not been fully explored, but articles which have been removed from their hiding place under the altar prove it to be the most important cache of Maya objects known in Yucatan. A magnificent mosaic

disk, containing one thousand beautifully cut and polished turquoises, is pronounced the most elaborate and beautiful product of the Maya civilization that has ever been discovered. The altar find was made in the Temple of the Warriors, which is one of the masterpieces of Maya architecture. Each column in the temple is graven with the figure of a warrior in full regalia, and it is believed that the eighty or more warriors are all portraits of real Maya heroes. The temple, however, was built in honor of the Plumed Serpent, an important Maya deity. Dr. J. C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and Dr. A. V. Kidder, a staff member, who excavated the Pueblo ruins at Pecos, arrived at Chichen Itza on a tour of inspection just in time to witness the remarkable discovery of the objects beneath the altar.

FIELD MUSEUM AT AZTEC

Lacking the finances to build a museum building at the Aztec ruins, George Boundey, custodian, hit upon the novel idea of arranging the relics one finds at the ruins in the excavated rooms, thus giving the curios a natural setting. In one excavated room he has arranged the pottery, skeletons, stone implements, sandals, etc., that were found in that room. In another room he has displayed first period pottery, in another second period pottery. In one room he has left the skeleton as found and wrapped on the floor of the room, where it will be protected in the position found so that visitors will have more of an idea of the work being done. While the number of visitors at the Aztec ruins is nearly as large as at the Mesa Verde National park the amount appropriated by the government is very small, but on this small amount Mr. Boundey is doing a wonderful work in making the