



SOUTHWESTERN LORE

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TO CHAPTER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

The office of the Executive Secretary of **The Colorado Archaeological Society**, at Gunnison, will be closed from August 23 to December 1, 1948. Arrangements have been made for all mail to be taken care of and correspondence may be carried on as usual. The only exception will be that dues payments will be acknowledged, but membership cards will be issued after December 1 and magazines missed, if any, will be sent then.

This issue of **Southwestern Lore** was printed and put into storage late in July for mailing by the printer on the date of issue—September 10. Bills for expirations were handled in the same way.

Your Executive Secretary will spend fourteen weeks in the East. Six weeks will be spent at the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University, and the other eight weeks on the road visiting various institutions such as the American Museum of Natural History, the Smithsonian Institution, and others. Collateral research on the northern Peripheral Archaeology of western Colorado and eastern Utah is the object of the trip.

Your cooperation is solicited to keep the affairs of the society going in good shape until the office is opened again.

—The Executive Secretary.

THE 1948 MEETING IN COLORADO SPRINGS

The 1948 meeting of **The Colorado Archaeological Society** was held July 17 in the Music Room of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 West Dale Street, with Mr. W. S. Stallings, Jr., of the Taylor Museum, President, presiding. Registration was in the lobby of the Taylor Museum.

The meeting was well attended by delegates, members, and guests and a very excellent program had been prepared. The program included a luncheon on the Colorado College campus. The morning and afternoon were given over to prepared speeches and papers. In the late afternoon occurred the business session.

At the business session, the following matters were acted upon:

1. The minutes of the 1947 meeting were approved, and the 1948 financial report was approved.
2. The report of the Resolutions Committee was approved.
3. The report of the Nominating Committee resulted in the election of the following general state officers for 1948-49:

President: George I. Cropley, Denver.

Vice President: Ira Harshbarger, Loveland.

Auditor: Morris Taylor, Trinidad.

4. Denver was selected as the place for the 1949 meeting, in July of that year. The Colorado Museum of Natural History will be the host institution.

5. The Board of Directors was given authority to accept collections of artifacts in the name of the society, and to seek the cooperation of established museum as depositories of such collections.

Abstracts:

ADDRESS

THE ART OF THE MAYAS

Dr. Jean Charlot

Fine Arts Center

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Mayan civilization has been studied from many angles, most often for its scientific achievements in mathematics, astronomy and computation of time.

A study of Mayan art should include only the achievements of its architects, sculptors and painters. Being a painter myself, I have concentrated on the Mayan understanding of color, in its figured potteries, polychrome bas-reliefs and mural paintings. This lecture is illustrated with the facsimile copies in color of specimens unearthed in the excavations made in Chichen Itza by the Carnegie Institution in the 1920's. Mayan art is especially in affinity with our own contemporary art as it ranges from realistic portraits of the dead to abstractions more drastic than those of the modern abstract painter.

The course of Mayan art can be followed over more than a thousand years. Up to now mural paintings of the Southern Empire could be guessed at only through the beautiful reductions of friezes that adorn cylindrical figure vases. The recent discovery of the murals of Bonampak permits us a direct contact with full-scale Mayan murals in the older style.

Our knowledge of the paintings of the Northern or New Empire comes from the fragments still in place on the walls of the Temple of the Tigers and of the Nunnery in Chichen Itza, and of a number of capstones scattered through the northern sites. The so-called Toltec influence brought elements from the plateau culture to the Mayan peninsula.

PAPERS:

**SURVIVALS AND INTRUSIONS IN THE RELIGION
OF THE PREHISTORIC INDIANS OF MEXICO**

Dr. Etienne Bernardeau Renaud

University of Denver

Denver, Colorado

The polytheistic religions of the prehistoric Indians of Mexico were dynamic and progressive. They allowed survivals of older deities, intrusions of foreign gods, changes and even substitutions of their tribal and highest gods. They were in no way static and exclusive like the modern monotheistic religions. This is illustrated by the following examples:

1. The Mother Goddess, symbol of growth and fertility, originated in Archaic times, survived through Toltec and Chicimec times and became the Aztec goddess Tonantzin, "Our Mother." Finally the Indian maiden became