

I. Editorial

I would like to hear from the readership about the possibility of adding an additional section to each issue of the BHA concerning the existence and content of newly created primary archival collections relating to the history of archaeology. This section would contain contributions from the readership/contributors in regard to primary archival materials recently housed in repositories both public and private. With the current interest by both public and private funding agencies in preserving the anthropological record, it seems advisable that the BHA should address the creation and announce the location of new primary archival collections as they are formed. Through this new section in each issue, the BHA would add another usable source of information that its readership could benefit from.

I look forward to any and all communications on this idea.

Douglas R. Givens, Editor
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II. Discourse on the History of Archaeology

Necrology: Hugh Carson Cutler

by

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Hugh Carson Cutler, former curator of Economic Botany at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, was one of the first generation paleoethnobotanists in this country, a pioneer in the field, and instrumental in getting American archaeologists to begin to employ flotation techniques for recovery of botanical remains. Cutler, the son of Manuel and Mary Cutler, was born September 8, 1912 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and died September 22, 1998 in Topeka, Kansas. It was during his B.A. work and M.A. research at the University of Wisconsin that he learned several of the techniques employed by palynologists, such as flotation and washing, use of various size mesh screens, deflocculation, and use of various frothing agents, some of which techniques he employed on his 1936 M.A. thesis (Cutler 1936). By 1937, he had traveled to the Mexican Hat area on the San Juan River of Utah, doing some boating and also beginning plant collections. In 1938 he spent some time in the Big Bend area of Texas, where he walked the landscape with a burro carrying his plant presses, and collected plant specimens which he later sold for ten cents a sheet. It seems to be during this time he first became interested in the botany of useful plants. Cutler completed his Ph.D. at Washington University-St. Louis in 1939, with his dissertation (Monograph of the North American species of the genus *Ephedra*) detailing species from which ephedrine is derived (used for treatment of asthma, hay fever, etc.) in the US Southwest and Northern Mexico. Following his degree, he intensively collected plants in the San Juan area from May to October of 1939 (Woodbury 1958:16).

In 1940, shortly after he finished his Ph.D., Cutler had an opportunity to become a member one of the early commercial trips down the Colorado River in three wooden cataract rowboats with Norman