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by

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This volume contains a short 6 page history of the contributions of Wesley Robert Hurt, Jr., to Americanist archaeology, along with a 4 page 'selected' list of his publications. The review starts with his career in the Southwest, traces the shift in his research to the Plains, and especially South Dakota, and then turns to his later change of interest to South America (especially Colombia, Brazil and Uruguay). Hurt was born September 20, 1917 in New Mexico, and got into archaeology through his cousin, Reginald Fisher, who was working for Dr. Edgar L. Hewett. Hurt started out taking Hewett's Chaco Canyon Field School, and began working on the Jemez Archaeological project as a high school student

in the 1930s. After graduating from the University of New Mexico in 1938, he worked from 1938 to 1940 as a WPA Archaeology Project supervisor on Southwest projects, and in 1941 served as the National Park Service archaeologist at Canyon de Chelly National Monument.

Hurt entered graduate school at the University of Chicago after the war to work with Fay-Cooper Cole, but when Cole retired, transferred with Ted Guthe, Tom Lee, Bill Sears, and Hale Smith, to the University of Michigan to complete his graduate work, concentrating upon lithic studies. His 1952 Ph.D. from Michigan was entitled "A Comparative Study of the Pre-ceramic Occupations of North America." He was hired by the University of South Dakota in 1949, and taught there for 14 years, focusing his research on the Paleoamerican and Archaic phase cultures. In 1956, he began his first work in Brazil, and when he took the job at the Indiana University Museum in 1963, shifted his interest completely to South American research, again focusing on Paleoamerican and Archaic manifestations, continuing field work until 1988, two years after his 1986 retirement. Hurt died November 3, 1997.

The remainder of the Plew volume includes several papers by Hurt's colleagues and friends, with contributions on both North and South American cultural evidence, but with no additional history of Americanist archaeology discussion.

VI. Activities of Various Academic Gatherings Related to the History of Archaeology

Stephen Nash (Department of Anthropology, The Field Museum of Natural History) sends word of the following symposium which was held during the Society for American Archaeology's Annual Meeting in April 2000:

Symposium: Picking the Lock of Time: Developing Chronology in American Archaeology in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries"

Organizer: Jim Truncer

Session Abstract:

Chronology posed a vexing problem for turn-of-the-century American archaeologists. Resolution of this issue remains a major breakthrough, yet developments leading to a solution were complex, occurring on many fronts and involving numerous individuals and diverse institutions. Papers in this session address this complexity by examining the impact of individual contributions to chronology development, allowing a better understanding of how the solution eventually unfolded as it did.

Papers:

Bruce Bourque: "Adolphe Merlot and the Development of Archaeological Chronology in New England."

New England archaeology began in the late 19th century with excavations of Maine shell middens by Jeffries Wyman and others from Harvard University's Peabody Museum. Accounts of these excavations reveal a sensitivity to stratigraphy and awareness of the passage of time during their deposition. By 1885, Frederic Ward Putnam had developed what he called "the Museum method", which was employed in the excavation of the huge Whaleback midden in Damariscotta. One source of these methodological insights appears to have been the Swiss geologist Adolphe Morlot, who heretofore has received little