

## I. Editorial

The years have flown by since the *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology* was born nearly eleven years ago. Interest in the history of archaeology has grown with each passing year. Annual meetings of various anthropological organizations have seen a continuing interest in having symposia devoted to the history of archaeology. The BHA has received correspondence from colleagues around the world indicating their interest in the history of archaeology and wanting more information as to what their colleagues elsewhere are involved with. I encourage the readership of the BHA to communicate to the Editor information as to on-going researches, valuable archival repositories that should be visited, and other items of interest to the readership. This will enable the BHA to more completely perform its most valuable function - being a forum for the exchange of ideas and interests.

Douglas R. Givens, Editor  
*Bulletin of the History of Archaeology*

## II. Discourse on the History of Archaeology

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### Book Note

Brian R. Billman and Gary M. Feinman, editors, *Settlement Pattern Studies in the Americas: Fifty Years Since Viru*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C.

David L. Browman  
Washington University - Saint. Louis

The most significant historical information in this volume is the short (3 pages) piece by Gordon R. Willey entitled "The Viru Valley Project and Settlement Archaeology: Some Reminiscences and Contemporary Comments." These remarks add to Willey's original background notes in his seminal 1958 publication, as well as his own retrospective look at the program in a chapter in his 1974 volume. Willey notes that when he started out in 1946, at age 33, on the Viru venture, he was not at all sure what he was going to do. The original project was not one primarily devoted to settlement pattern study, rather it developed as the outcome of a suggestion by Wendell C. Bennett that post-war research on Peruvian archaeology could be moved forward by having several archaeologists from several institutions focus their efforts upon a single Peruvian coastal valley. The Viru valley was ultimately settled upon, because not only had Bennett had worked there earlier and knew something of its cultural sequence, but the valley was of a modest size and thus, with the resources available, a viable project.

Willey credits Julian H. Steward with the genesis of the idea of the focus upon settlement pattern archaeology. Steward had been part of the earlier discussions regarding which Peruvian valley to attack, and because the Smithsonian Institution was involved in supporting the project, Steward had continuing input into project functioning. Willey said that originally he had expected to devote attention to traditional concerns such as ceramic chronology, wall trenching, and burials, but Steward pointed out to him that the others on the project would be doing an adequate share of these activities. Thus Steward suggested to Willey that he should focus his attention on what Steward called 'settlement patterns'. Willey indicated that he had not heard of that term before, and that when he asked Steward for clarification, Steward directed Willey to some of Steward's work (1937) on the Southwest. Willey reports that he could not find the term 'settlement pattern' explicitly used in Steward's article, although Steward employed a research focus along similar lines to what came to be known by that term. Thus because it was not explicitly defined, Willey indicated that when he arrived in Viru, he devised his own "ad hoc"

strategy, veering away from Steward's more 'settlement-natural environmental' focus to his own more 'settlement social organizational' focus.

Along with a few other observations of this nature, Willey provides further clarification of the context of the development of Americanist settlement pattern archaeology through the Viru project. The remainder of the volume is one which focuses up the results of settlement archaeology projects in recent times, and will be of course of interest to students of more recent theoretical advances. Willey's commentary helps us to understand a bit more of the original formulation and rationale of the project.

### References

Julian H. Steward

1937 "Ecological Aspects of Southwestern Society," *Anthropos*, 32:87-104.

Gordon R. Willey

1953 "Prehistoric Settlement patterns in the Viru Valley, Peru." *Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 155*, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C.

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1974 *Archaeological Researches in Retrospect*. (Editor). Winthrop, Cambridge.

### III. Bibliographic/Archival Material Relating to the History of Archaeology

#### A. Works by Subscribers

None reported.

#### B. Doctoral Dissertations/Masters Theses

None reported.

#### C. Works Suggested by Our Readers

"An Old and Reliable Authority: An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities"  
2000 Special Issue of *Journal of the Southwest*, 42(2), Summer (reprints Ronald Lee's History of the Antiquities Act of 1906 with commentary by Raymond H. Thompson) - A. L. Christenson and James E. Snead.

Baca, Keith A.

2000 "James A. Ford to Moreau B. Chambers: Letters from Alaska, 1930-1932," *Mississippi Archaeological Association Newsletter*, 35(4):8-10.

Cotter, John L.

1994 "Archaeological Memoir of the Natchez Trace," *Mississippi Archaeology*, 29(1):1-16 - D.R. Givens

Hallman, Peter R.

1999 "When Byron Cummings Discovered Arizona's "Ice Age", *Kiva*, 65(2):125-142 - A. L. Christenson