

## INDIANS, AND NOT VIKINGS, MADE DISPUTED ROCK CARVINGS

The ancient rock carvings along the Columbia River, which are translated by Prof. Oluf Opsjon, of Spokane, as runic inscriptions made by Vikings in the eleventh century, tell a big story but it is an Indian story and not a record of Viking exploration in western America, according to Herbert W. Krieger, curator of ethnology of the National Museum, who has just returned from three months stay in the region of the rock pictures.

Mr. Krieger spent some time studying the petroglyphs, which are numerous along the Columbia River, and has a number of photographs, including some from Vantage Ferry, where Prof. Opsjon claims to have found runic inscriptions.

"The pictures pecked in the hard basalt are extremely crude," said Mr. Krieger, "and any one can read into them anything he likes in order to make a plausible story. To say that they are Viking remains is to read into them something that is not in the pictures themselves."

Crude as they are, some of the objects scratched out on the rocks are typically Indian, Mr. Krieger points out. In the carvings can be seen such objects as bows and arrows and a representation clearly meant for a feather headdress.

Considering the numerous rock pictures along the river as a whole collection, he finds evidence that they tell the story of tribal migrations in search of food, and the use of the Columbia River as a path of migration. They are mostly hunting and fishing scenes, he believes. Mountain goats and curved horned mountain sheep are frequently portrayed. But why these artists left such records to be preserved in the hard stone and what it was they wanted to communicate can only be guessed at, in the opinion of this ethnologist. They had no system of fixed symbols with one or two exceptions, so there is no hope of finding a key to the mystery.

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## TESTS SHOW WOMEN WORK FASTER THAN MEN

Women can do more work in a given time than men but men still retain their superiority in matters of judgment.

These results are shown in a series of experiments conducted by the Psychological Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University and described by Isabel C. Steward in a recent paper.

Tests were given 542 women and 542 men, college students in different sections of the country, ranging in age from 16 to 39, the average being about the same for men and women.

Similar tests in the past have been concerned almost wholly with school children, and indicate that girls show greater speed and accuracy in performance but do not measure up to the boys in judging weights and distances.

The work in these tests consisted in substituting letters for symbols. The work to be done was fully explained and a key to the symbols given at the top of the

work sheet. The judgment tests required each student to estimate in advance how much of the work of substitution could be done in the given time. Two tests were given, the first one for one minute and fifteen seconds and the second for one minute.

The results were carefully analyzed and tabulated. No appreciable difference was shown between the men and the women in their attention to directions or in the accuracy of their work in substituting letters for symbols, but the women did more work than the men. On the other hand, in estimating the amount of work they could do in a given time the men were more accurate.

In both the estimating work and in the work of substitution, the women showed slightly more variation among themselves than the men. It has generally been accepted that men were more variable than women though there has been some difference of opinion among psychologists on the subject.

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#### RUBBER BLOCK PAVEMENT SUCCESSFUL IN BOSTON

Tests on rubber block pavement, laid one and one-half years ago at the entrance to City Hospital, in Boston, have shown marked advantages. In addition to having worn but little during the interval, the pavement has the advantage that snow and ice do not collect on it in winter as on other types of pavement, thus doing away with slipperiness. The blocks are also almost noiseless and vibrationless.

These rubber paving blocks are an invention of R. F. Herrick, a consulting engineer of Boston. They are made largely of reclaimed rubber. Those used in the present test are 12 by 6 inches in area and 2 inches thick, and are laid in plastic sand and cement directly on the street foundation. Their edges were given a coat of asphalt paint immediately before laying.

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#### TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

SUNSHINE AND OPEN AIR, by Leonard Hill. New York: Longman, Green & Co. \$3.75.

This is not a fad book though it is on a faddy subject. Dr. Hill is the director of the Department of Applied Physiology of the National Institute of Medical Research, London, and he sums up in 150 pages the results of many years of experimentation in the laboratory and in the Alps on the effects of ultra-violet light and other forms of radiation on the maintenance of health and the cure of disease. Here one may find in compact form the latest scientific data on this question which is not so simple as it seems. There are harmful as well as beneficial rays and the boundaries between them are closely defined.

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