



#### FRONTIERS OF MAN'S WANDERINGS

In this map Dr. Spinden marks the northern frontiers beyond which ancient man apparently did not spread during different stages of his cultural development. Men in the Old Stone Age never got within 3,000 miles of Bering Strait, and America was discovered so late that it is a strictly modern world, this archaeologist contends.

ARCHAEOLOGY

## Was America Discovered Only About 4,000 Years Ago?

### "Deflated" View of New World's Past is Spinden's; He Says Earlier Man Was Too Far South for Crossing

THE DISCOVERY of America by man took place no longer ago than about 2000 B.C., and the human beings who first trod American ground were modern men. America had no ancient 20,000-year men, as some scientific estimates have assumed.

This "deflated" view of America's history is reached by Dr. Herbert J. Spinden of the Brooklyn Museum, who is endeavoring to fit into the stream of world history the early Americans—Folsom hunters, Eskimos, Mayas, and other aborigines.

Dr. Spinden stated in an interview that he sees a need to veer away from the "inflation" theories which tend to picture a longer and longer past for the New World. By some of these theories the presence of mammoth hunters in America is interpreted to mean primitive Ice Age

inhabitants, some 15,000 or 20,000 years old.

Certain of the large mammals now extinct are generally believed to have survived the Ice Age in America, he pointed out. And if they did, they may have survived it by many thousands of years, well down toward the Christian era. This very thing happened in the case of the European aurochs.

Men from the Old Stone Age never reached America, the archaeologist reasons, because those primitive wandering cave men did not spread so far north as Siberia—the gateway of American discovery. On an archaeological map he showed that Old Stone Age discoveries have not been made farther north than the British Isles and the Gobi Desert.

Hence, Europe's dawn men, Neander-

tal men, and other Old Stone Age types failed to get within 3,000 miles of the East Cape of Siberia, it appears. And the East Cape, up near the Arctic Circle, was the approximate place where the short voyage of American discovery was supposedly made.

The Ice Age, spreading its chilly glaciers down over the northern part of the earth, kept Old Stone Age man from moving north, Dr. Spinden explained. Not until the ice sheets melted back, and forests grew again, did man wander toward the Arctic Circle. That was when the Mesolithic, or Middle Stone Age was ending and the Neolithic, or New Stone Age was coming in. And that, Dr. Spinden reasons, was the time of America's discovery.

Stone implements and other enduring relics found on both sides of the world are cited by the archaeologist in support of this explanation. The harpoons and arrows and other implements of Neolithic hunters at Lake Baikal, in Siberia, match with similar things made by prehistoric Indians in America. The New Stone Age cemeteries of Lake Baikal are dated at about 2000 or 2500 B.C.

America evolved her aboriginal civilizations all within a few thousand years by this theory. The waves of immigrants from Asia brought some fundamental gifts of art and craft knowledge, and the groups spread to far corners of the New World, developing quickly such great civilizations as the Mayas, Aztecs, Incas and Mound Builders displayed in favorable centers for culture.

"The New Stone Age," said Dr. Spinden, "lasted well up into the secondary and sophisticated age of the Mexican Toltecs, as is shown by richly furnished tombs with stone axes, flint implements, and highly developed pottery, but not a trace of metal."

A royal grave found at Teotihuacan, Mexico, and belonging to about 1100 A.D. is one striking bit of evidence showing the Neolithic foundation on which the great Toltec Indian civilization depended almost throughout its existence. In this royal grave archaeologists found stone blades similar to stonework made by comparatively simply cultured people of Europe. Yet the Toltecs were advanced in civilization, and after conquering parts of Yucatan in the twelfth century they rapidly gained knowledge of writing, astronomy, arts and industries.

Nowhere in the world, Dr. Spinden stated, do cultures continue for thousands of years without change; and the stone tools and weapons which featured America's civilizations throughout are evidence that these civilizations are not very old.

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