

ARCHAEOLOGY

U. S. Launches 10 Archaeology Expeditions In Latin America

Goal of Newest Good Neighbor Project Is Rediscovery Of Missing Chapters of New World's Civilizations

LAUNCHING the newest good neighbor project, some of the United States' most notable archaeologists are now scattering through Mexico, Central America, and South America to join hands with Latin American scientists in a large venture. The goal is rediscovery of missing chapters of the New World's earlier civilizations.

No less than 10 archaeological expeditions are taking the field in this project. Stations of the archaeologists range mainly along the backbone ridge of the Andes Mountains, spreading out into adjacent lowlands. Along this important line flourished the highest native civilizations of the New World before white men came. Archaeologists emphasize that the white man's era dominating the Western Hemisphere cannot be fully understood without knowing more about what the Indian achieved when he held the land.

Some of the archaeologists will seek more information about what might be called ancient America's Pan-Americanism. North and South American Indians, such as Aztecs in Mexico and Incas in Peru, may have known about one another. Trade and other influences may have been relayed north or south over long routes. Migrants may have brought new ideas to distant peoples. Definite evidence of such events is still sought from sites buried in the earth, in order to build up a clear picture.

Mound-Builder Indians of the Southeastern states may have been an offshoot of tribes "somewhere in Mexico," and efforts to find out whether northeastern Mexico may have been the cradle land of the Mound Builder culture will be made. Northeastern Mexico is still an unexplored field for archaeological work.

Study of artistic and scientific achievements of pre-Columbian Indians will occupy time of some of the scientists. The term pre-Columbian fits these Indian civilizations better than prehistoric. In the Mexican and Central American area many Indian groups had writing, preserved literary and scientific records,

kept abstruse computations relating to the calendar and astronomical matter. They properly deserve the adjective "historic."

The archaeological expeditions, which are scheduled to last until June 30, 1942, are an undertaking of the Institute of Andean Research with cooperation of the American Museum of Natural History and the Office of the Coordinator of Commercial and Cultural Relations between the American Republics. The latter, a branch of the Council of National Defense, is financing the project with about \$100,000.

Working together to fill in gaps of knowledge in America's background, scientists of the two hemispheres expect to increase mutual understanding. It is

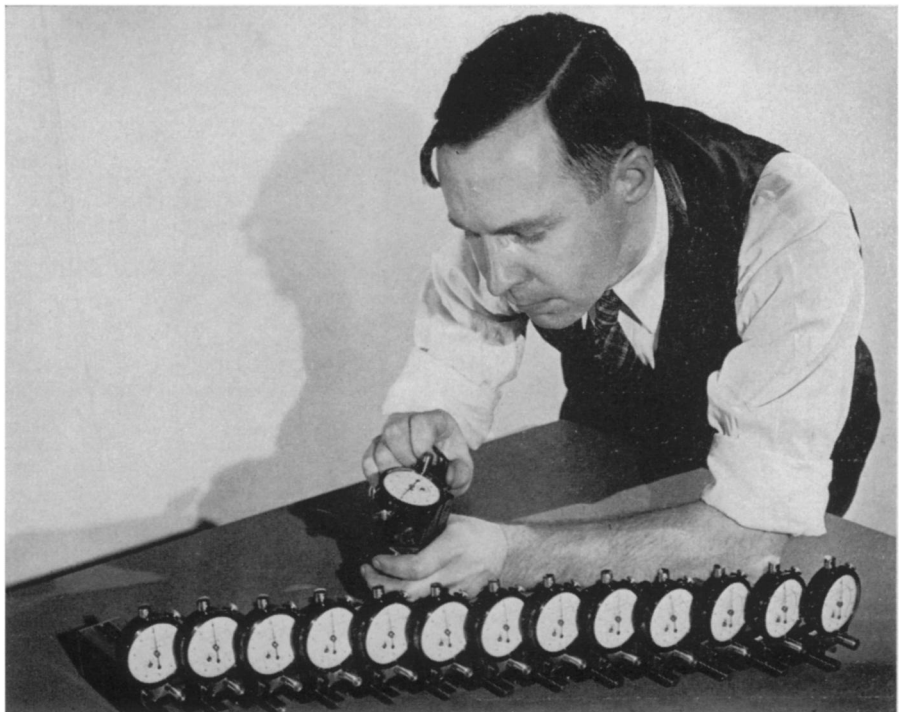
also recognized that knowing more about the Indians' achievements and capacities in the past is helpful in solving problems of 30,000,000 Indians who live in the Americas today.

Directing the expeditions are archaeologists already known for discoveries in Latin American excavations. These include:

Dr. Wendell C. Bennett of Yale, who has gone to Colombia; Dr. Samuel Lothrop of Harvard University's Peabody Museum, who is in Peru; Dr. Alfred Kidder II of the same museum, also in Peru; Dr. Cornelius Osgood of Yale, who is in Venezuela; Dr. W. D. Strong, who is at work near the Peruvian-Chilean border.

Other directors who will probably remain in the United States, delegating field work to others of their expeditions, include: Dr. A. L. Kroeber of the University of California; Dr. Fay-Cooper Cole of the University of Chicago; Dr. George Vaillant of the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Vaillant has taken charge of many arrangements for the expeditions, and recently made a survey trip over a wide area of Latin America.

Altogether about 20 experienced ar-



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