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THE TREE-RING SOCIETY

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THE TREE-RING BULLETIN

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The Tree-Ring Bulletin will publish papers resulting from original research in tree-rings in relation to climatology, archaeology, and other fields. For reports of projects in tree-ring dating, a tabular form as in Vol. 6, No. 1 is suggested. Until funds are available authors will be requested to pay the cost of illustrations. Each contributor will be given twenty-five copies of the Bulletin in which his article appears.

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SIXTH ANNUAL TREE-RING CONFERENCE**H. T. GETTY**

The Sixth Annual Conference of the Tree-Ring Society was held July 12 and 13, 1941, at the summer field camp of the Arizona State Museum at Forestdale, Arizona. Dr. Douglass presided at all sessions of the conference.

Those attending the conference were: Gordon C. Baldwin, Robert Braidwood, A. E. Douglass, Harry T. Getty, E. T. Hall, Jr., Emil W. Haury, Paul S. Martin, John C. McGregor, Deric Nusbaum, Erik Reed, Albert Schroeder, Edmund Schulman, Watson Smith, W. S. Stallings, Jr., Alfred Whiting, Carleton Wilder. Students participating in the summer field camp were invited to attend the open meetings of the conference.

At the first session of the conference on the afternoon of July 12, the minutes of the previous annual conference were read and approved. Dr. Douglass then reviewed the present status of tree-ring work, calling attention to the feeling common to it and to archaeology as shown in this camp that actual field work is essential to real understanding. Some description was then given of improved methods in handling and dating specimens, with illustrations of the advantage of cell illumination, as shown by rotating a specimen of wood in the sunlight. The possibilities in very small pieces of charcoal were illustrated by a specimen from Kinnikinnick that contained an excellent series of 36 rings within a distance of 11 mm.

The need of conveying in publications the basis of dates presented was stressed and aids suggested as follows: (1) Comparison records from modern trees to show the type of activity normal in the region; for this purpose Mr. Schulman conducted a special party in collecting borings from trees near Forestdale; (2) publication of chronology data by (a) measured and plotted curves, (b) photographs and (c) skeleton or thickness plots; and (3) definite comparisons with other ring records of the same period as shown in the photographic chronology now available in Microfilm A (MFA), prepared by the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research of the University of Arizona (with aid from the Carnegie Institution of Washington) and filmed by the Bibliofilm Service of the Library of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and handled by the American Documentation Institute, Science Service Washington, D. C. Document 1298, under the name Southwestern Photographic Ring Sequences.

As usual the methods of preserving fragile charcoal specimens were discussed. Mr. McGregor reported good success with a solution of Alvar, a synthetic resin in alcohol which he tried on finding that bakelite became too hard. Mr. Hall reported that he had successfully handled rotten wood by putting it in a can and turning it into charcoal. Dr. Douglass showed an excellent surface that had been put on a small charcoal piece in 1929 after applying a weak solution of paraffin in gasoline. The quality of such surface greatly depends on the use of a very sharp razor blade.

At the morning session on July 13, discussions were developed around the following points:

1) Need for local chronologies.

Such chronologies which have been developed for Southern California, Southern New Mexico, Texas, Northern Mexico, Santa Catalina Mts., Santa Rita Mts., Chiricahua Mts., Arkansas, New England and other places.

2) The work of J. L. Giddings, Jr., on Dendrochronology in Alaska received special attention, because of its great archaeological and climatic significance.

3) Probable dates of the transition from Basketmaker II to Basketmaker III. This led to a general discussion of the cultural implications of the archaeological aspects of tree-ring research, in connection with the following items:

Specimens from Du pont Cave, Kane County, Utah, dated by Stallings at 217 A. D., and checked by specimens from Durango, Colo., collected by I. F. Flora and Earl H. Morris.

Date in 300's A. D. from Basketmaker II site, Ign. 7:101, near Durango, Colo.

Lack of dates in the 500's.

4) Shift in foci of cultures shortly after 1100 A. D. involving the Flagstaff, Tsegi, and Chaco areas. Intensive building in some areas, withdrawal from others.

Mention was made of the date of 1105 for the Gallina area in Northwestern New Mexico, and the association therewith of Woodland type pottery.

5) General discussion concerning the nature of material to be published in the Tree-Ring Bulletin, particularly in regard to tables of data for specimens.

At the business session which was held on the afternoon of July 13, Dr. Douglass was reelected president of the Tree-Ring Society, and Edmund Schulman as treasurer. Harry T. Getty was elected secretary of the Society. There was no change made in the personnel of the editorial board of the Tree-Ring Bulletin. Professor H. Arthur Meyer of Pennsylvania State College was elected a Fellow in the Tree-Ring Society.

The Tree-Ring Society extended a vote of thanks to Dr. Haury and his staff at the field camp for the hospitality extended during the conference.

A BASKETMAKER II DATE FROM CAVE DU PONT, UTAH

W. S. STALLINGS, JR.

Cave du Pont, in Kane County, Utah, eight miles northwest of Kanab, the county seat, was excavated by Jesse L. Nusbaum in 1920. That great rarity, a pure Basketmaker II site, it was historically important in defining the content and range of the culture.¹ This communication reports a date of 217 A. D. from the site, at present writing the earliest cutting date in the Southwest and the first from a pure Basketmaker II deposit.