

**BULLETIN OF THE NEW YORK  
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OCTOBER 1897. ABORIGINAL  
CHIPPED STONE IMPLEMENTS OF  
NEW YORK**

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**WILLIAM M. BEAUCHAMP**

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University of the State of New York

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OF THE  
New York State Museum

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VOL. 4 No. 16

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ABORIGINAL CHIPPED STONE  
IMPLEMENTS  
OF  
NEW YORK

PREPARED BY

WILLIAM M. BEAUCHAMP, S. T. D.

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ALBANY

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

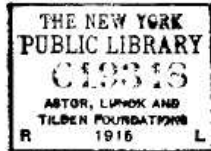
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## INTRODUCTION

In 1896, the legislature appropriated \$5000 to be used by the regents of the University for increasing the state collection illustrating New York aboriginal life, and for preserving such facts as might seem to them of most value. Most of this appropriation has been judiciously used by A. G. Richmond, esq., honorary curator of this department of the state museum, in securing several collections of great value. It was also thought advisable to issue some bulletins of a popular nature, illustrating the antiquities of New York, especially the implements and ornaments of the aborigines. In furtherance of this plan the Rev. W. M. Beauchamp, S. T. D., of Baldwinsville, N. Y., was consulted and his aid secured. He had been engaged for a quarter of a century in this study, and had accumulated a vast amount of available material. His suggestion was that such work might be distributed under suitable heads, each subject complete in itself, but forming a series if desired. The first would be that of the chipped stone implements of New York, and a paper on this is subjoined. A second would be on those polished articles of stone, in which New York is so rich; the paper on this is nearly completed, and will be an important contribution to science. Others might treat on the articles of clay, bone, horn, shell and metal, so abundantly found in the state.

It was thought that, in this way, not only would clearer information be afforded, but that the state museum would be the gainer, by valuable contributions of many things altogether uncared for now. Such has been the result elsewhere, and the local pride of our citizens may confidently be relied upon to make the state collection one unsurpassed. The illustrations are selections from the thousands of drawings which Dr Beauchamp has made, and show both rare and common forms.

For this valuable bulletin the state is indebted solely to Dr Beauchamp to whom its publication has been wholly entrusted. For the admirable work done in increasing the archeological collection, the state is indebted to our honorary curator, A. G. Richmond, president of the Canajoharie national bank, who has for years given his

active and extremely valuable expert service to the increasing of our collections without a dollar of compensation from the state. It is a pleasure to recognize in this public way a service so satisfactory in its result and so unusual in being rendered to the state without salary.

It is hoped that Dr Beauchamp may from the results of his work for the past 25 years give us a series of bulletins which will make his stores of special knowledge available to every student of the subject.

MELVIL DEWEY

*Secretary of the University*



ABORIGINAL CHIPPED STONE IMPLEMENTS OF  
NEW YORK

## ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK IN NEW YORK

While much has been done by the state of New York in the preservation and dissemination of documents relating to early days, little until now has been accomplished in collecting and arranging those still earlier records, found so largely in stone, which reveal much unwritten history. All early writers describe a condition of things evidently not representative of periods which were then already days of old. Implements and ornaments had changed, arts and history had been forgotten, a new race had displaced the old, as we have taken its place in turn. We can only know what that history and those arts were, by seeking their surviving memorials in the soil.

The state, however, has done valuable service in embodying so much relating to what is called indian history, in many of its publications. Crude as was Mr Schoolcraft's *Report on the Iroquois*, made in 1845, it was a boon to the public, and preserved or suggested much valuable matter. This was notably the case with the several Iroquois dialects, afterwards much enlarged by him. The *Documentary history* and the *New York colonial documents* made other interesting matter accessible. The *Report on the indian problem*, in 1889, wisely placed the Iroquois treaties before the public, although it was great misfortune that the signatures to these were not submitted to an expert in indian names. It would have saved a host of needless errors.

The work of the regents in the same direction has been good as far as it has gone. The annual reports which contain the papers of L. H. Morgan on recent Iroquois implements and ornaments, are yet among the most popular and best preserved. Part of these were afterwards embodied in his valuable *League of the Iroquois*, and were first produced nearly half a century since. The publication of Father Bruyas' Mohawk lexicon, written two centuries ago, was one of the earliest attempts to bring a New York indian language before the public, when systematically arranged. It has since been fully translated. The publication of the explorations and plans of Messrs Hough and Cheney, in the northern and western parts of New York gave prominence to the interesting earthworks in both sections, with occasional notes from others.

In connection with Mr Morgan's literary work he made an interesting collection of modern Iroquois articles for the state museum, and this has been partially supplemented by that made for the World's fair at Chicago, by the Rev. J. A. Sanborn. These might be enlarged. Occasional stone and other relics have come into the state collection by donation, but no systematic or sustained work has been done until that now begun. Individuals have not been idle in making up their own cabinets, sometimes soon dispersed, sometimes remaining, but often far surpassing anything belonging to the state. Notable among these are the collections of O. M. Bigelow, in Baldwinsville, illustrating Onondaga and neighboring counties; that of J. S. Twining, Copenhagen, pertaining to Jefferson county, now in the possession of the state; and those of S. L. Frey, Palatine Bridge, and A. G. Richmond, Canajoharie, so rich in the relics of Montgomery county and vicinity. Many smaller collections of interest might be mentioned.

The early Dutch writers are now available in many ways, and the various historical societies have added much to our knowledge of the aborigines. The Pennsylvania archives and colonial records contain much relating to those of this state, and other valuable material will be found outside of our limits. The recently discovered journal of Arent Van Curler (Corlaer) is a treasure indeed. The *Jesuit relations* have been diligently culled and annotated, and large portions relating to New York are now within easy reach. Valuable notes on local antiquities may be found in such works as Bolton's *History of Westchester*, Hough's *Histories of Jefferson and St Lawrence counties*, Doty's *History of Livingston county*, Young's *History of Chautauqua*, the *Onondaga centennial*, Clark's *Onondaga*, and many other local histories. Some are carefully prepared, forming a good working foundation.

The work done by Mr Squier as yet stands alone as a general account of the antiquities of New York now accessible to the public. Dr Frederick Larkin published a little work in 1880, entitled *Ancient man in America*, which is a careful treatise on the antiquities of the western part of the state. The Rev. W. M. Beauchamp prepared a map for the U. S. Bureau of ethnology, some years since, with de-

scriptive notes of the Iroquois portion of the state, much of it from personal field work. This has since been enriched, and now contains all the reported indian sites of New York, large and small. It is very suggestive in many ways. The Bureau of ethnology has done much here, although its larger fields in the west compel it to leave many things to local efforts.

Philology has had its students. The issuing of Father Bruyas' valuable Mohawk lexicon marked an era in this respect, and Mr J. G. Shea has made valuable contributions from early French publications since that time. Messrs L. H. Morgan and O. H. Marshall did excellent work on the indian names in the western and some other parts of the state. Mr W. W. Tooker in the eastern, and the Rev. Dr Beauchamp in the central part of New York have done much in the same line. Prof. Horsford published Zeisberger's *Onondaga and Delaware dictionary* in 1887, but his journal of his residence at Onondaga still sleeps in the old manuscript at Bethlehem. The late Horatio Hale's *Iroquois book of rites* is an invaluable contribution to our knowledge of Iroquois songs and ceremonies. Prof. Lyman, of Syracuse, has recently taken down a large collection of indian songs, with the accompanying music, and the Bureau of ethnology is steadily at work on the Iroquois dialects. Others might be mentioned.

Colden preserved much in his history of the Five Nations, and the quaint and marvelous history written by David Cusick, the Tuscarora, has passed through many editions. It has recently been republished, with ample notes. Morgan's *League of the Iroquois* is a standard work, but has little to do with prehistoric, or even early historic times.

#### ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION

The aboriginal occupation of New York was of a varied character and for a long time after it was first visited by man, almost its whole extent was but a temporary resort for hunters and fishermen. Rivers were the first places to attract men, and rifts on these were the favorite spots for camps. Good fishing and fording were important considerations and determined the routes of travelers and the location of many hamlets. The mere abundance of fish and game drew roving