

**THE LATIMER COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES
FROM PORTO RICO, FROM SMITHSINIAN
REPORT FOR 1876. PP. 372-393; THE GUESDE
COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES IN POINTE-A-
PITRE, GUADELOUPE, WEST INDIES, FROM THE
SMITHSONIAN REPORT FOR 1884. PP. 731-837**

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OTIS T. MASON

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PREFACE.

Since the two papers here reproduced were written considerable literature has accumulated with reference to the archæology of the Greater and the Lesser Antilles and contiguous areas in Central America, South America, and the United States.

While there are types of ornamentation and manufactures common throughout the regions mentioned, it is quite definitely settled that certain peculiar forms of stone implements, called Carib in the Guesde collection, reached no further north than Guadeloupe and the adjacent smaller islands, and new types of carvings in stone and wood appear in Porto Rico and the Bahamas. Indeed, no discovery has been made in the last twenty-five years which goes to show that some of these peculiar types were not restricted to Porto Rico itself.

Since the acquisition of the Latimer collection by the Smithsonian Institution, however, other collections have been made in Porto Rico, so that the number of collars known amounts to one hundred, while the number of Zemes has been also greatly increased. Mention should be made in this place of Professor William H. Holmes' studies in pottery ornamentation, through which he finds traces of Caribbean influence in the meandering designs figured in the Latimer pamphlet in South Carolina and Florida. He says: "The ceramic products bearing evidence of Caribbean influence in Florida belong to the latest pre-Columbian times—the Timuquanan-Muskhogeian period—while the earlier pottery, represented in what appears to be a middle period of shell-heap deposition, affiliates with phases of the art prevalent in the Gulf States beyond the limits of supposed Carib influence.

"Taken altogether, the ceramic phenomena of the Southern States seem to indicate pretty much the degree of intercourse between the nations occupying the neighboring land areas as would be expected of enterprising peoples well enough advanced in maritime matters to navigate the wide straits with considerable ease, yet decidedly attached through long occupation to definite traditional seats of habitation; the tendency being under such conditions of association for culture elements to pass by infiltration, so to speak, from the higher to the lower culture groups."

In this same connection attention is called to the discovery of the blow-tube in North Carolina and Louisiana, and the custom of the Indians in the latter of weaving bandages above the calf of the leg and on the upper part of the arm.

The most significant archæological investigations, however, in this connection were those of Mr. Frank Hamilton Cushing at San Marco, in southwestern Florida, and the explorations of Mr. Clarence Moore in the sand mounds of Florida. The latter author has clearly revealed a culture not akin to that of the Indians found upon the spot when this region was first visited by Ponce de Leon, but Mr. Cushing's explorations in the old canals and artificial lagoons reveal a wealth of archæological treasures, all of which ally the ancient people of southern Florida to those of the Antilles and of Middle and South America.

I would call attention also to a paper by Dr. J. Walter Fewkes on the "Zemes of Porto Rico," in which he clearly traces the connection of the mami-stones with the object of worship mentioned by the early historians of Columbus. "It would seem, from the various historical accounts of the Zemes, that they had in the Carib mind somewhat the same significance as the fetishes in the conceptions of the inhabitants of the continent of America. The same word is used for both images and 'spirits.' They alike had powers of good or evil, and Boitii or socerers held conversations with both, being aided in various ways by these idols in imparting assistance to others. The spirits and the image seem to be associated.

"I have throughout this article considered them as the productions of the Caribs, but am not sure that another people may not have had a hand in their manufacture. That they belonged to an aboriginal American race seems evident, and I believe that race was the Carib, but demonstration of the fact is beyond my present powers."

The Guesde collection is more easily identified with Carib work, as one may see by comparing them with figures in works treating of the maintained Caribs of South America.

The following publications contain matter germane to the study of West Indian antiquities :

- BLAKE (EDITH). The Norbrook Kitchen Midden. *Victoria Quarterly*, Kingston, Jamaica, 1890, vol. 2, pp. 26-33.
- BRINTON (DANIEL G.) The Archæology of Cuba. *Am. Archæologist*, Columbus, Ohio, 1898, vol. 2, No. 10, 4 pp.
- CUSHING (FRANK HAMILTON). A Preliminary Report on the Exploration of Ancient Key-dweller Remains on the Gulf Coast of Florida. *Proc. of the Am. Philosophical Soc.*, vol. xxv, No. 153.
- FEWKES (J. WALTER). On Zemes from Santo Domingo. *Am. Anthropologist*, Washington, 1891, pp. 167-175, 7 figs.
- HOLMES (WILLIAM H.) Caribbean Influence on the Prehistoric Ceramic Art of the Southern States. *Am. Anthropologist*, Washington, 1894, pp. 71-79, 6 figs.
- MOORE (CLARENCE B.) Certain Aboriginal Mounds of the Georgia Coast, inclosing Inhumation and Incineration in Europe by the Marquis De Nadailiac.
- MOORE (CLARENCE B.) Certain Sand Mounds of Duvall County, Florida, inclosing Two Mounds on Murphy Island, Florida, and Certain Sand Mounds of the Ocklawaha River, Florida.
- MOORE (CLARENCE B.) Certain Sand Mounds of the St. Johns River, Florida, parts 1 and 2, inclosing Earthenware of Florida by William H. Holmes.
- OSER (F. A.) Aborigines of the West Indies. *Proc. Am. Antiquarian Soc.*, Worcester, Mass., 1894, pp. 1-46.
- OSER (F. A.) Puerto Rico and Its Resources. New York, 1899, D. Appleton & Co.
- TEN KATE (H. F. C., JUN.) On West Indian Stone Implements and Other Indian Relics. *Bijdragen tot de Taal, Land en Volkenkunde van Nederlandsch-Indie* 5 Volgr., IV.
- THURN (E. F., IM.) On the Races of the West Indies. *Jour. of the Anthropological Institute*, Lond., Nov., 1886, pp. 190-196.
- THURN (E. F., IM.) West Indian Stone Implements. *Timehri, Demerara*, 1882-1884, vol. I, part 2; vol. II, part 2; vol. III, part 1.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

OTIS T. MASON.

April 27, 1899.

THE LATIMER COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES

FROM

PORTO RICO

IN THE

NATIONAL MUSEUM AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

BY

OTIS T. MASON.

[FROM SMITHSONIAN REPORT FOR 1876.]

ETHNOLOGY.

THE LATIMER COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES FROM PORTO RICO IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

BY OTIS T. MASON.

The remarkable beauty and finish of the stone implements of Porto Rico and others of the Antilles Islands are not wholly unknown to students of American Archaeology. Now and then a small collection has found its way to London, Copenhagen, or New York; but they had never been collected in sufficient numbers for a comparative study until this important gift was bestowed on the Smithsonian Institution. For the convenience of description, the specimens may be separated into the following classes: *pottery, celts, smoothing-stones, mealing-stones, stools, discoidal and spheroidal stones, beads, cylinders, amulets, rude pillar-stones, mammiform stones, masks, and collars.* In some of these classes the objects are so similar to those found in other parts of America and throughout the world, that the briefest description will suffice. In others the number of specimens is so large, and the objects so rare, as to merit the most careful scrutiny and description. Whether from accident or design, there is not in all the collection a single flaked or chipped implement or weapon. Indeed, I have searched in vain in the National Museum for flaking or chipping from a Carib area. Although the historians of the voyages of Columbus mention arrows pointed with stone, they more frequently speak of bone, teeth, and shells as the materials used. Herrera, in speaking of their celts, says that they excavated their canoes with flint implements. (Herrera, Stephens's Translation, i, p. 60.)

POTTERY.

There is not an entire vessel in the collection, all of the specimens being fragments of variously shaped, coarse, red pottery, well baked, one or two pieces being glossy on the surface. (Figs. 1 and 2.) Nearly all of the ornamentation is produced by animal forms luted on. The most of these are monkey heads adorned with scrolled, circular, and fluted coronets, and by deeply incised lines, often forming very ingenious patterns. Others bear human faces, all grotesque, and the figures of mythological animals. (Figs. 3-7.) In one of them a W-shaped wreath or festoon is luted on the outside. (Fig. 8.) A fragment of the bottom of a cup or jar deserves especial mention, on account of the ingenious labyrinthine design traced on it by a deep furrowing, produced evidently by a sharp instrument when the vessel was soft. (Fig. 9.) This bold, deep tracing is characteristic of all the ornamentation on the

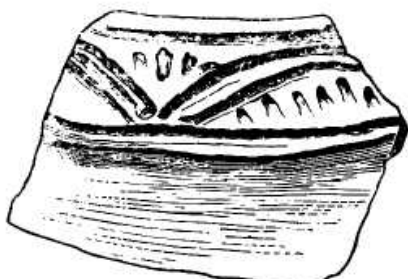


FIG. 1.—Fragment of a jar. †



FIG. 4.—Handle from the edge of a dish. †



FIG. 2.—Fragment of a shallow dish. †



FIG. 5.—Handle from the side of a dish. †



FIG. 6.—Handle from the edge of a dish. †



FIG. 3.—Handle from the edge of a dish. †



FIG. 7.—Handle from the side of a dish. †



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