

## Topical Reports

### 1. Trans-Pacific Contacts

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Several studies of unusual interest to our field of inquiry have been published since my last Report in *AP* and are commented upon and listed below.

An article by Emelio Estrada of Ecuador is not included in the bibliography because it appears in a popular magazine, *Vistazo*, published, I believe, in Guayaquil, but not otherwise identified in the tear sheets sent to me. Entitled 'Asiaticos Desembarcaron Hace 2000 Anos en El Ecuador', it includes a preliminary account of Estrada's finds of a previously unknown cultural complex on the coast of Ecuador that dates to the early part of the first millennium A.D. Included in the complex are clay house-models, clay neck-rests, figurines, and other ceramic forms as well as burial urns that appear to be related to things of the Han Period in China and the *Haniwa* Culture of Japan. A more complete publication of this material and the ideas it has evoked is promised in the near future.

Although not precisely involved with trans-Pacific problems, a recent paper by Michael Coe (Archæological Linkages with North and South America at La Victoria, Guatemala, *AA*, **62**, 363-393, 1960) will be of considerable interest to those concerned with such problems. It is a discussion of some remarkably close similarities seen in early materials from the coast of Guatemala with others on the southern coast of Ecuador. The similarities are so precise that the author postulates sea-borne traffic to account for them. The distance is about 1,500 miles by sea and about 2,000 miles by land. If such close contacts are possible at these distances, it paves the way for our visualization of contacts between other widely separated cultural entities.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

##### *Books and Articles*

EDWARDS, CLINTON R.

1960 Sailing Rafts of Sechura: History and Problems of Origin, *SJA*, **16**, 368-391.

An excellent study showing that a fore-and-aft lateen-like sailing rig was the type used on rafts in pre-Columbian South America and that the square sail was a later European introduction. This greatly increases the resemblance of South American sailing techniques to those of Polynesia and Asia, and, as the sailing rafts of the South American coast are known to have been quite maneuverable and could sail into the wind, it makes early trans-Pacific raft voyages quite plausible.

GRENGO, ROBERT E.

1960 Rocker-Stamped Pottery in the Old and New World, *Selected Papers of the Fifth International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Philadelphia, Sept. 1-9, 1956*, 553-565.

This is a concise and well-documented study of the distribution in time and space of rocker-stamped pottery. As the author indicates, the evidence favours the probability that this was a trait that diffused from the Old World to the New.

## HEINE-GELDERN, ROBERT

- 1959a Chinese Influences in Mexico and Central America: The Tajin Style of Mexico and the Marble Vases from Honduras, *Actas del XXXIII Congreso Internacional de Americanistas, San Jose, 1958, I, 195-206.*

A fairly detailed and well-illustrated comparison of these design complexes with that of Late Chou Period China is presented. It is demonstrated that this style in Mesoamerica begins as early as Teotihuacan II times and that there is therefore no chronological reason for denying influence from China. This is the best exploration to date of this important area of 'trans-Pacific' studies.

- 1959b Chinese Influence in the Pottery of Mexico, Central America, and Colombia, *Actas del XXXIII Congreso Internacional de Americanistas, San Jose, 1958, I, 207-210.*

A brief text and a number of illustrations emphasize the great similarity of Teotihuacan cylindrical tripod pottery forms and those of the Han Dynasty in China, and the two are shown to be approximately the same date.

- 1959c Representations of the Asiatic Tiger in the Arts of the Chavin Culture: A Proof of Early Contacts between China and Peru, *Actas del XXXIII Congreso Internacional de Americanistas, San Jose, 1958, I, 321-326.*

Specific elements in the symbolic decoration of tiger figures from Chou Period China and the Chavin Period of Peru are notably similar and date from approximately the same time.

- 1960 Theoretical Considerations concerning the Problem of Pre-Columbian Contacts between the Old World and the New, *Selected Papers of the Fifth International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Philadelphia, Sept. 1-9, 1956, 277-281.*

The current view of the independence of the American Indian cultures is considered to be at variance with the evidence of trans-Pacific contacts and with the generally accepted attitude toward the importance of diffusion in the history of culture. It is a plea for wider recognition of the likelihood and problems of trans-Pacific contacts.

## KELLY, DAVID H.

- 1960 Calendar Animals and Deities, *SJA, 16, 317-337.*

A study of exceptional interest. The lists of calendar names and deities (day names, lunar houses or constellations, and the deities connected with them) in India, China, Southeast Asia, Greece, and Polynesia are compared with the Aztec and Maya lists. It is shown that they have degrees of similarity that can only be explained by historical contact. It is also shown that the letters of the Hebrew-Greek alphabet may be derived from the sequences of lunar mansions, and that they also show some similarity with the list of Maya day names.

The author postulates trans-Pacific contact in the period between the seventh and fourth centuries B.C. to account for the transfer of these ideas to the New World.

## OBAYASHI, TARYO

- 1959 Divination from Entrails among the Ancient Inca and its Relation to Practices in Southeast Asia, *Actas del XXXIII Congreso Internacional de Americanistas, San Jose, 1958, I, 327-332.*

The use of entrails in divination is documented for pre-Columbian and modern Peru. As it was practised primarily in connection with domestic animals (the llama) and is found nowhere else in the New World, it is suggested that this is a trait brought across the Pacific from Southeast Asia where similar practices are encountered.