

tion at St. Louis. It is hoped that all museums of art as well as of science will be largely represented at the gathering, and every effort will be made to make the occasion one of enjoyment as well as of instruction to those who attend the sessions.

All communications relating to arrangements should be addressed to Dr. W. J. Holland, the director of the Carnegie Museum.

*THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION AND A DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY*

THE following letter urging the establishment of a Department of Anthropology for the purpose of investigating the problems of anthropology in South America has been signed by practically all students of anthropology in the United States:

APRIL 3, 1907

TO DR. R. S. WOODWARD,

*President of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D. C.*

*Sir:*—The undersigned were appointed by the American Anthropological Association, the Archeological Institute of America, the American Folk-Lore Society, the Anthropological Society of Washington, the American Ethnological Society, and Section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science—the six societies of the United States entirely or mainly anthropological in scope—to discuss the subject of the most important researches that should be undertaken for the furtherance of anthropological science, and to outline a plan of research of such importance as to be worthy of the consideration of the trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

The committee believes that the isolation of the continent of South America from the great land masses of the old world in recent geological times makes the study of man's appearance on the continent and the development there of the numerous tribes, languages and cultures in early times, a problem the solution of which would be of supreme importance to anthropological science.

In such a research the study of the racial and cultural development of the peoples of this continent and particularly of the con-

tact of this remote area with other parts of the world would be of fundamental importance.

Since it is not likely that any government will take up such an international investigation, and as it is impossible for any of the existing societies and institutions devoted to anthropological research to engage in so extensive an undertaking, the committee respectfully submits the following resolutions to the Carnegie Institution of Washington:

*Resolved*, That the trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington be respectfully requested to establish an anthropological department for the purpose of investigating the problem of the anthropology of South America, with special reference to the lines of contact between the early inhabitants of that continent and other continental areas.

*Resolved*, That should such a department be established its work should be based on the following four lines of investigation:

1. The antiquity of man in South America with special reference to the discoveries made in the Pampean formations. This work should be in charge of a competent geologist who should make a critical study of the strata in which the human remains have been found for which great antiquity is claimed. Associated with the geologist should be a trained archeologist who should make archeological investigations in the region of the alleged discoveries.

2. While historically no relation has been traced between the cultures of the more advanced tribes of the Andean Highlands and those of Central America, there is a general resemblance in fundamental types which seems to indicate that either a very early connection between North America and South America existed or that the later cultures grew up on the basis of an older type common to both continents. This investigation would require painstaking archeological researches extending from Mexico southward into the most southern regions to which the influence of Andean culture extended. The investigation of the ethnical relation between South America and North America would require particularly an exhaustive study of the early remains extend-

ing from Colombia northward through Central America, toward southern Mexico, to be correlated with the investigations now being carried on in Middle America.

3. Another line of connection between South America and North America probably extended over the Antillean Islands toward the Atlantic coast of the North American continent. The investigations of explorers have demonstrated that Caribbean and Arowak influences extended from southern Brazil northward to the eastern coast of the Gulf of Mexico; and North American archeology makes us suspect the existence of an earlier connection, which may have extended between South America and the southern and central portions of the United States. In this research is involved an investigation of the many scattered and isolated tribes inhabiting the Amazon valley and neighboring regions.

4. While the indications of North and South American contact are fairly definite on some lines, we have much vaguer indications of foreign influence on the Pacific coast of South America, where certain traits of culture, as well as physical appearance, suggest possible contact with the Polynesian Islands. Notwithstanding the vagueness of the indications, this question is theoretically of fundamental importance. Equally uncertain are the indications of relation with the old world on the Atlantic side, but the possibility of contact by way of the Atlantic Islands to Northwest Africa may be considered.

*Resolved*, That to take up the four lines of research here outlined, an annual appropriation of not less than twenty thousand dollars would be required; and the extension of the work, which would necessarily follow, would make it advisable that an anthropological department, charged with the investigation of the particular problem of the ethnical relation of South America to other continents, should have a continuous appropriation of not less than forty thousand dollars, and that its work should not be limited to a definite number of years, because even now, in the imperfect state of our knowledge, we can see that the solution of the problem will require many

distinct and important lines of research. The work should therefore be continued as long as results of importance are secured in the various lines of research. Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) F. W. PUTNAM, *Chairman*,  
for the Archeological Institute of America.

ROLAND B. DIXON,  
for the American Folk-Lore Society.  
W. H. HOLMES,  
for the Anthropological Society of Washington.

A. L. KROEBER,  
for the American Anthropological Association.

FRANZ BOAS, *Secretary*,  
for the American Ethnological Society, and  
for Section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. FRANCIS GALTON has been appointed to deliver the Herbert Spencer Lecture for 1907, at Oxford, and proposes to lecture this term on 'Probability the Foundation of Eugenics.'

OXFORD University has conferred its doctorate of science on Dr. A. Graham Bell.

MCGILL University has conferred its doctorate of laws on Professor Ernest Rutherford, who is leaving McGill to accept a chair at Manchester, and the doctorate of science on Dr. H. M. Ami, of the Canadian Geological Survey.

PROFESSORS E. C. PICKERING, of the Harvard College Observatory, H. Poincaré, of Paris; W. Ostwald, of Leipzig, and Ramón y Cajal, of Madrid, have been elected members of the Royal Irish Academy.

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT PENCK, professor of physiography at Berlin, and Professor Max Noether, professor of mathematics at Erlangen, have been elected foreign members of the Academy of Sciences at Copenhagen.

PROFESSOR WILHELM ROUX, professor of anatomy at Halle, has been elected a corresponding member of the Biological Society of Paris.

PROFESSOR J. WIESNER, professor of botany at the University of Vienna, has been made