

ionization lie within the field of chemistry or physics. The various categories of medical specialization were made for convenience and not for the purpose of limiting the horizon of medical development. Psychosomatic medicine is becoming not a medical specialty, but a discipline of human biology which will draw from its roots, wherever they may lie among man-made categories of interest. As such, and because of the variety and prevalence of its manifestations it should attract the attention of more and more serious and productive workers in chemistry and physiology as well as in clinical science.

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## Obituary

### George Grant MacCurdy 1863-1947

On November 15, 1947, the beloved founder of the American School of Prehistoric Research was killed by a passing car as he stepped from his own near Plainfield, New Jersey, to ask road directions. He and Mrs. MacCurdy were motoring south, where they intended to spend the winter.

Dr. MacCurdy was the son of a Georgia planter who moved to Warrensburg, Missouri. He attended the State Normal College at Warrensburg, but he was able to pay for his education only by numerous long interruptions in his studies during which he taught school. When he needed more money for tuition, he would set out on a horse or even on foot, his valise in his hand, to look for work. On his first job, in 1881, he was paid \$22.50 a month. But he rose with astonishing speed to be a principal, and at 26 was a superintendent of schools.

In 1891, with the help of a scholarship, he found himself admitted to Harvard with advanced standing. He devoted himself at that time to geology and biology, though Professor Putnam, then director of the Peabody Museum at Harvard, almost persuaded him to take up anthropology. That decision was to come later. He took his A.B. in 1893 and his M.A. the following year. During the summer of 1894 he was the guest of Alexander Agassiz at his biological laboratory at Newport. This was followed by four years of study at Paris, Vienna, and Berlin and intensive foreign travel that included even Turkey and

Russia. In 1896 Dr. MacCurdy attended the International Zoological Congress in Leyden, at which du Bois first exhibited the bones of *Pithecanthropus*. This so fired his imagination that he determined to devote himself exclusively to anthropology and prehistoric archaeology.

On his return from Europe, Dr. MacCurdy became associated with the Peabody Museum at Yale, where he received his Ph.D. in 1905 and where he remained until he became professor emeritus in 1931. Under his curatorship the collections of anthropology and prehistoric archaeology at the Museum grew enormously and were catalogued with scientific skill. He also continued to travel widely and to keep in close touch with scientific developments abroad.

From 1910 to 1912 he spent part of his time in New York cataloguing and arranging for exhibition the prehistoric collections from the Old World at the American Museum of Natural History. As a result of this, he was offered an appointment in the Department of Anthropology there, but, since he preferred to stay at Yale, he declined.

During his whole career Dr. MacCurdy was a prolific author, as the immense list of his published works indicates. It is safe to say that no other scholar outside the Old World has made so many notable contributions to the study of its prehistory. Though he was chiefly interested in the Old World, he also traveled widely in the New World and wrote authoritatively on American subjects.

Of Dr. MacCurdy's many books, the most celebrated is, of course, his *Human origins*, which appeared in

two volumes in 1924. While not the first great manual of prehistory to appear in America—Osborn's *Men of the old Stone Age* had been published 7 years previously—*Human origins* is of far wider scope. Many new discoveries have, of course, been made in the intervening decades, but *Human origins* is still an invaluable mine of information about discoveries made up to 1924, and it remains a great monument on the long road that scholarship has traveled in the search for Man's beginnings.

In 1921 Dr. MacCurdy, with Mrs. MacCurdy and Charles Peabody, founded the American School of Prehistoric Research. It was at first called the American School in France for Prehistoric Studies, but interest was later directed to Europe in general and finally to the whole of the Old World. For 8 seasons Dr. and Mrs. MacCurdy themselves conducted the summer trip for students to European museums and sites and also carried out excavations, the most notable of which was that of the Abri des Merveilles in the Vézère Valley where the famous Mousterian tools of rock crystal were found. After excavation of that site was concluded in 1930, Dr. MacCurdy turned over most of the work abroad to others, though he continued to direct the remarkably successful series of excavations in which the School participated in the Danube Valley and in the Middle East. The most notable of these was the Neanderthaloid necropolis at Mt. Carmel, containing the oldest complete skeletons of Man discovered up to that time.

Even after 1930 Dr. MacCurdy continued to travel abroad. During these last trips, which were like a royal progress, he attended banquets and receptions, presided at congresses, and replied to addresses of welcome.

Dr. MacCurdy also edited the School's *Bulletin* until he retired as director in 1945, and under his editorship many papers of scholarly importance appeared in it.

During later years, cooperation with the Peabody Museum of Harvard became more and more a feature of the School's activities, and the School's collections were eventually transferred to that Museum. This

development grew from the strong ties that had always existed between the School and Harvard. Charles Peabody, one of the co-founders of the School, was curator of European Archaeology at the Peabody Museum at Harvard, and E. A. Hooton, of the Department of Anthropology, and Donald Scott, the director of the Museum, have long been Trustees of the School.

Dr. MacCurdy was the recipient of many honors during his long life. The one that pleased him most, however, was his election in 1946 to the vice-presidency of the Archaeological Institute of America. He was also one of the founders of the American Anthropological Association, which he served as secretary from 1903 to 1916 and as president in 1930. He was also a vice-president of the International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences and a permanent member of its committee. When the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia held its International Symposium on Early Man in 1937, he was a member of the organizing committee and was chosen to edit the volume entitled *Early man*, in which the papers appeared.

Though George Grant MacCurdy was in many ways a New Englander at heart, he was of southern origin, and his scholarship possessed a courtliness and charm that has vanished in our hurried times. He was also a man of culture in the widest sense, devoted to nature, music, and the arts, and never for a moment became the narrow slave of science. He had an amazing capacity for friendship and for half a century knew every important scholar and private collector in his field in Europe and could command their unlimited service on behalf of the School for "conferences," as he liked to call lectures, and for guidance to museums, sites, and excavations. Among the host of scholars that he knew and visited abroad were Hoernes, Manouvrier, the de Mortillet, Montelius, Sophus Müller, Obermaier, Breuil, Sir Arthur Keith, the two Evanses, Haekel, Penck, Boule, Salin, and Sergi.

HUGH HENCKEN

*American School of Prehistoric Research*

