

5434 Ridgedale Avenue
Dallas, Texas.

February 29, 1936.

Dear Harold:

I have your good letter and of course I am glad to learn of your intention to publish concerning your artifacts. If the decision was hastened through the expressions of Miss Wormington I regard it as fortunate. You can profit greatly through cooperating with her, as I did. I consulted her on all matters pertaining to archaeology and anthropology.

By all means stick to your plan of emphasizing a few of your best sites. Remember this : You are just breaking into a jealous circle, some members of which are highly resentful of the newcomer, unless he occupies a favorable position in their scheme of things. Those individuals will be highly critical, if you afford them an opportunity, and this you must avoid. Write not one word that might be construed as discussional. Advance no theories, steer clear of every phase of the subject to which difference in opinion have been aroused. Remember that published accounts of associations in Yuma county are not accepted by archaeologists, as representing identical age or as fixing the time period of bones and artifacts. The finding of scrap bone, fossilized or otherwise, is meaningless and proves nothing. Remember that the associations at Colorado City, Texas, and Folsom, New Mexico, were denied and occupied highly precarious positions until Roberts made the camp-site discoveries near Fort Collins. How much less the prospect of recognition, when the Yuma county material is specifically unidentifiable and fragmentary to the last degree. Remember that the changing erosion and deposition there may have been going on at irregular intervals since the original deposition.

I urge that you confine yourself to a description of the physical characters of the sites. That has not been done and will be new data. Trench to a greater depth than the Snodgrass site and with ink drawing illustrate the several strata, with accompanying scaled measurements. This has not been done. Personally call attention to the common level of all objects that had formerly occupied horizons above the uppermost fixed formation. Carry out some experiments with the materials comprising the several horizons. Describe the nature of the materials, how they compare with drifting elements etc.

The museum has a good microscope for that sort of research. It has a camera 4x5, that is suitable for microphotography.

Such items as the above are not open to the slightest criticism, as long as you confine yourself to physical facts.

Such a procedure can be made highly creditable and prohibit all but the most friendly reactions. No one knows the subject so well as your self and Miss Wormington is dead right in the matter of advantages in publication. I personally made a grave mistake through avoiding publication. I engaged in it only because of what I have regarded as a necessity.

And now for a suggestion. You have, or will discover that Marie Wormington has a brilliant mentality. Her little hints or suggestions are always worthy of careful consideration. That European scientists recognized her worth there can be no question. She was accorded the highest recognition and was afforded the rarest of opportunities by Europe's greatest archaeologists. She enjoyed their fullest confidence. These items were not empty compliments.

If I can help in any way with the paper, let me know.

I regard it as highly important that you make very liberal use of illustrations. Good photographic illustrations are vastly superior to drawings and save many chapters of descriptions. I would insist upon their being liberally used.

Marie and Betty have had the special training, as well as the facilities and can help you in photography.

And now I shall again suggest your lending your collection to the museum through Marie. She is the head of the department and you can be assured of the safety of the collection. It will definitely fix your connection with the museum and then through the publication of your paper you will, at once, have the widest sort of recognition. A reference to your collection being on exhibition should appear in the paper. Play the game in accordance with the rules and deal through Marie, not Mr. Hanington. Here is a good suggestion to make; In addition to exhibiting your entire collection, propose exhibiting the specimens that appear as illustration in your paper. Between you and Marie an utterly stunning and unique collection can be arranged. Insist upon independent cases--the isolation of your things.

Spring has arrived here, as displayed by frogs calling, elms, in full bloom, fields quite green, gardeners planting, cabbages and large flocks of geese and ducks are going north. We will be following in the near future.

Mrs. Figgins joins me in expressions of appreciation and conveying our best wishes for your venture into the field of archaeology. Do not delay and here is predicting success.

Sincerely yours,

