THE TWENTY-THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS

The twenty-third International Congress of Americanists met in New York City during the week of the seventeenth of September, 1928. The meeting was well attended by North American, Central American, South American and European scientists.

By invitation of the American Museum of Natural History, the congress met in the halls of the museum. Wednesday the meeting was held in the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, on Thursday at Columbia University and on Friday at the Brooklyn Museum.

Professor Franz Boas, of Columbia University, was elected president; Mr. N. C. Nelson, of the American Museum of Natural History, general secretary of the congress, and President Henry Fairfield Osborn, of the American Museum of Natural History, was elected honorary president.

At the opening meeting the president paid a tribute to deceased members, particularly to Dr. Pliny Earle Goddard, secretary of the organizing committee, whose untimely death has cut short a career of great usefulness.

The discussions of the congress related almost entirely to ethnological and archeological questions. The first day was devoted to the question of cultural relations between South America and North America. Dr. Max Uhle, of Ecuador, set forth the theory of an ancient interrelation between early North America and South America and discussed the probable ancient relations between Asia and America. Professor K. Th. Preuss, of Berlin, followed with a more detailed study based on the distribution of the archeological types found at San Agustin. Professor Marshall H. Saville, of the Museum of the American Indian, New York City, also discussed the interrelation between northwestern South America and Central America, while Professor A. L. Kroeber, of the University of California, took up the matter in a broader way and set forth his view of an independent origin of the higher civilization of South America and Central America, both of which he thinks have grown up independently on a similar ancient background. Professor Erland von Nordenskiold, of Göteborg, in discussing this subject pointed out particularly that a number of very specific inventions, like the scales in Peru, have never found their way to Central America.