Prof. C.C. Marsh

Dear Sir, in reply to your note of 9th inst. to Mr. Putnam in re
gard to those bones which you drew
among my collection, I would state
that on reaching Chincanega Nia
I called upon Dr. J. Sylde, an educated
German physician, to whom I
enclosed letter of introduction; this
gentleman immediately gave me
valuable information in regard to
localities where I would be most like
ly to find archaeological remains
of the ancient. It so happened that
his wife was part owner of a sugar es
tate about 2 leagues N.W. of C., upon
which a few years since a ditch
was excavated, in connection with
the water power. This ditch was a
about 200 yards in length, 7 1/2 ft. wide
about 8 ft. deep & 9 ft. wide at top.
In excavating this a large amount of
fragments of pottery, stone implemen
t, bone &c. were found; but as
the circumstance was not an unusual occurrence, but little attention was given to the fact.
May of the most perfect specimen stones were picked up by the
native workmen & taken to their
Dutch, but no attention was paid
to the stones. Being very curious of
obtaining the latter for Prof. Wyman
who contributed liberally in aid of the
expedition, I at once decided to visit
the locality in person. Being invited
by Sen. T. Morrisum to make his last
cresta my home, near which my
examinations were to be made I em-
ployed anative & proceeded about
one mile through the forest to the
excavation. This was in a very unpre-
freguited locality, and it is not customary
for these people to employ animals
about such excavations, nor is it a
place easily accessible for domestic
animals. Furthermore, I am quite
confident that no mistake has been
made in regard to the very few stones
which I obtained during a search of
nearly two days. I found no large
earthen vessels, such as were said
to have been found when the ditch
was first excavated, and in which the
stones were said to have been found,
but in digging along the sides of the
ditch, some time moving several feet
of earth, these stones were found; and
my recollection is that not a fragment
of these were found with less than
three feet of dirt above them, and it
posed a question belonging to the
same age as the implements found
with them, which are unquestioned
able to be very ancient.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Dear [Name]:

We have been [exhibit] it is the case of
man has first claim to them shall return them as soon as your exam is made. [Name] and
Wyman not care for them specially or we will
desire of them as you will find them.

Of infinite to furnish that is [illegible]

with [illegible]
Salem, Mass.,

July 25 1867

Prof. C.C. Marsh

Dear Sir, Having received some encouragement looking towards an expedition to Chili or Mexico, mainly for the collection of antiquities and archaeological objects in that dept. I would be glad to learn how liberally you will be disposed to contribute to such an expedition; on mutually satisfactory conditions. It is desirable to raise a fund of at least $1,000 by at least as few contributors as wish to share in material collected as possible, for obvious reasons. It is also desirable to be on the way there early in Sept. next.

Please give me your views on this subject and otherwise interest yourself with other parties. Hoping to hear from you soon. I am yours,

John A. McNick
Salem, Mass.,

Aug. 30 1869

Prof. C. C. Marsh

Dear Sir,

I have received a proposition to go out on an expedition for parties in N.Y. But several friends in this place have expressed a desire to know the results of such expeditions in this & neighboring localities, have determined to call a meeting to arrange for raising the necessary funds.

Do any arrangement that will be satisfactory to parties here, and for individually, what may be affected.
Pamannily in aid thereof from you. Time presses and I would like to know the character of the objects most desired by you, in the event of your taking part in the contemplated expedition.

I shall feel under obligation to you as secretary of the A.T.S. for attested copies of the resolution passed by Sec. in reference to my expedition.

The meeting mentioned above will be held some time this week and soon thereafter. I shall go on to N.Y. hoping to leave for the Pacific by first ste., in Oct.

Yours truly,

J.H. Neil
New York City
Sept 9 1869

Prof. O.C. Marsh

Dear Sir, as I have failed to elicit a reply to my note to you of the 30th ult. I have concluded that it did not reach you, or that in the midst of other more pressing matters, it has been overlooked. You at one time expressed a willingness to contribute your little towards defraying the expenses of the expedition I talked with you about when you were here. (Salon)

Prof. H. Dickerman is aiding me in getting the necessary funds for the expedition, but I have not yet found any one interested in the department which I had expected to make a specialty.
of in the present expedition. Toward Archæology & Ethnology.
Therefore, if you can make it convenient to add a liberal
subscription for that department
you can hardly fail to be ma-
terially benefited thereby.
The resolution passed by Sec.
C. of the A.H.A.S. in refference to
my expedition would be very
acceptable, if in your keeping,
but it is of minor importance.
If you conclude to aid the expedi-
tion by a subscription, please
send it to Prof. J. A. Vinkenorg,
59 Wall St. or to me at 280 Pearl
St. New York. I know no reason
now, why I may not make a spe-
cial arrangement with you in re-
gard to the department you are
especially interested in.
Hoping to perfect my arrange-
ments so as to have here if
postable, by the 6th of the
21st inst. or 1st inst. I hope
to get an early reply.
Having told my former collect-
or, to E. W. Putnam, and per-
haps much of my former
outfit, I therefore have but
little to do but get on the
ground as soon as possible
in order to take advantage
of the dry season for ex-
cavations &c.
The design now is, to raise a sub-
scription of say $5000, if possible.
But not less $6000 gold now, for the
expedition. $2000 gold for me as
a first instalment of the salary
I am to receive. And in case it
is decided by the subscribers to dis-
continue the expedition at the ex-
piration of six months, that is
to be my full compensation for
dark tenen. Though I was left to be
at any expense for passage or freight either way, that being paid from the funds of the expedition in addition to the gold. Should there be any surplus funds described it may be used in purchasing can, casks, bottles, &c., as the subscribers desire, may deem most advisable. You will not permit me to be more explicit in giving you the details; but I presume if you can be assured of an equitable distribution, you will be content to let those be looked after by subscribers here. Any suggestions you may wish to offer will be gladly received at an early day. You remain,

John A. McNeil
1. Exact location of salt lot marked on map.

2. Kinds of pottery found together in same grave.

3. Are stone implements found with any particular kind of pottery, or with all.

4. Do the statuettes occur with pottery?

5. Native (or local) name(s) of localities or specimens.

6. Depth of grave, shape, size.

7. [Handwritten note: Agnetel]
I have not been able to discover any particular difference in the class or style of grave stones in which the stone implements were found. Having obtained them from every locality visited, I can only say that the majority of those in my collection are from Kugafia. But, as a large portion of the pottery are also from that locality, I have not thought this fact important.

The stone axes of a different form are from the eastern limit of my work, Guadalca. These were brought in to me by my assistant, with about the same number of countors. I have not visited that locality, but my inquiries lead me to believe that a similar class of potting is found in connection with the stone implements of each locality.

I sought to get all the information possible from the Thule Eskimoes, on this point, with a view of determining for my own satisfaction, whether I could discover any evidence of material difference in age of implements.

The stone images, statuettes, idol images, etc., generally found. And are generally found either on the surface above the graves, or a short distance below. As I have no practical knowledge of my own in regard to these, having at one time been present when any of these in my collection were found, I can only.
state from information, which I believe to be in the main reliable. My enquiries in that direction also elicited the reply, that when stone images of any kind were found, it was looked upon as indicating a rich grave in pottery, and probably gold.

In depth, the grave very materially. But this circumstance, I saw reason to believe, had been caused in many instances by surface wash of the soil. I saw a few graves that were unusually deep — 10 to 14 feet. I examined these closely, for the purpose of determining as far as I was able, if there was anything like tolerable material underlying those graves. But though I conjectured there was some evidence of such material, I could not from my limited acquaintance with such material and the appliances at hand for examination, say that I found such evidence. Notwithstanding some of these deep graves were on higher positions than the ground in the immediate vicinity, which precluded the idea that any of the depths had been added by earth washing upon them from above. Then again, I found some graves at Calvera, on a level plain, where we dug 3, which were about 4 ft. deep, to the undisturbed original soil. Within one mile of these, and on top of a short ridge 200 to 300 ft. high, we dug 3 graves which were between 5 and 6 ft. deep. The soil in each case being a clay loam, sufficiently hard to make
It very difficult to extract the very few pieces of pottery without breaking.
The general form of the graves are very much the same as our modern graves. And the size, in almost which came under my notice seems to indicate any material difference from those of this age.
I sought to discover if there was any disposition of these graves, with regard to points of compass. I did not discover any such evidence; though others had contended that north was the case. After examining about 1000 graves for that purpose, I am satisfied that such impressions are based upon mere supposition. As imagination would fail after a slight examination, to sustain such a theory.
There is still much to study in the fact, that there are in some localities, about the same proportion of round pits or graves, as of the other. Though the two classes are about of same capacity, the round ones are generally much less carefully constructed and contain very few implements of any kind.

Owing to your absence at this time, and as I am slightly unwell, I am unable to call to mind any thing more in an order to the quickest you have noted down for me to answer.

The above is respectfully submitted.

[Signature]
No. 1 Vivala
No. 2 Bugavita
No. 3 Jacit (wacco)
No. 4 San Carlos
No. 5 El Banco
No. 6 Caldera
No. 7 Jatoca
8 Boquete