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UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9/07.

Dear Sir:-

I respectfully announce the completion of my paper on the Swastika, and that a presentation copy will be sent you as soon as it is issued from the Government Printing Office which, I hope, will arrive in due season and afford you in the reading a portion of the interest I have had in its preparation. An account of its inception is given in the preface.

It has long been known that the Swastika spread over a large portion of the Eastern Hemisphere (see Table of Contents), but my paper brings out the fact that it has been found in the mounds of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, among the Snc, Navajo, and Pueblo Indians, in Central and South America, but not in Mexico.

I believe it to have migrated or been communicated between persons or tribes, and not to have been an independent invention, nor the result of the parallelism of human thought or development. I seek to demonstrate this by showing an almost unlimited repetition among prehistoric peoples in distant countries, of similar implements, utensils, weapons and other objects which, by reason of the intricacy of their invention, the difficulty of their manufacture, and the number and identity of the specimens, could scarcely have been the result of a common inspiration. I believe man to have been an imitative, rather than an inventive, animal, and that these and similar objects once invented spread by teaching, rather than by independent inventions.

I am of opinion that no one knows surely the origin or signification of this symbol, but every-

thing indicates its identity with the early bronze age. It was probably an amulet or charm carrying good luck, long life, or something of the sort. But it was subject to many changes and may have represented different ideas, sometimes gods or religions. My only desire in writing this paper is to throw light on the truth of Science..

If you are sufficiently interested to present this paper before any of your Societies with criticisms, I will be content to receive them, indeed, I invoke them. In case of need, I can send to these Societies a copy of the work, though it will appear in the Report of the National Museum for 1894, which, I suppose they receive.

Very truly yours,

Thomas Wilson

Curator, Department of
Prehistoric Anthropology.

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