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1953 Pottery Memorandum to Southwestern Superintendents from Naturalist

Dale S. King

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
SOUTHWESTERN NATIONAL MONUMENTS
GILA PUEBLO, BOX 1562
GLOBE, ARIZONA

March 5, 1953

Memorandum SWNN-53-16

To: Superintendents, Southwestern National Monuments
From: Naturalist
Subject: Collection of synoptic series of pottery types

We are in receipt of a request by Dr. S. C. Dellinger, Head, Department of Zoology, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, for a collection of series of Southwestern potsherds to use in teaching and for exhibition at the University Museum there. Such requests have been received by us occasionally in the past, and probably will occur again in the future.

Therefore, will those of you who feel capable, or have capable men on your staff, make such collections of synoptic series of local pottery types, label them, and have them checked by some authority if you feel it necessary, and mail them under Government frank to Dr. Dellinger? You should make a collection of at least four of each common variation; the first set to be sent to Dr. Dellinger, the second set to be sent to me here at Gila Pueblo, the third set to be retained in your museum storage to be used for the instruction of future new personnel, and the fourth set to be retained to fill the next request.

I have always wanted to assemble at Southwestern National Monuments headquarters a collection showing the variations of all Southwestern types represented in the National Monuments, but lack of space has hitherto prevented any progress on the project. Now that we have plenty of space, I wish that field men would go about such a collection at their convenience so that we can make some definite progress.

By the way, there is quite a terrific sherd pile here at the back of this building, and I, with the help of my wife, intend to paw through it in order to salvage whatever types that are represented which do not occur in any of the National Monuments. If any of you are interested in duplicates, let me know.

Dale S. King
Naturalist