

## Chaco Canyon Pit Houses

Neil M. Judd, curator of American Archaeology in the National Museum, and some years ago with the School of American Research at Santa Fe, is the author of a monograph with seven plates, descriptive of two Chaco Canyon Pit Houses of which he says that they are "vastly more ancient than the stone structures of the Canyon." The discovery of the two pit houses is ascribed to the National Geographical Pueblo Bonito Expedition, of which he has been the director. The first pit house is near Casa Rinconada and was uncovered by Zuni workmen and that quite unexpectedly. It is three feet deep and 17 feet in diameter. "The room had been gouged, presumably with stone or wooden implements from clayey silt strata which wind and water had deposited." In the pit house were a circular fireplace, three sandstone bins, four metates, one mano, a grooved stone maul, two hammer stones, five bone awls and several shards. The second pit house was pointed out to Judd by a Navajo friend in 1922. It is one mile east of Pueblo Bonito. This proved by far the most interesting for it contained a tangled mass of roofing poles and much other material, including artifacts. It is the writer's conclusion that the pit houses form a connecting link with similar structures in so widely separated localities as the Mesa Verde and Luna in Socorro county, New Mexico. "Of scarcely less interest is the fact that finding an improvised pipe and basketry and textiles exhibiting extraordinary skill in weaving adds appreciably to previous knowledge of pit house structure and strengthens its suspected close relationship with that of subsequent periods.

Walter, Paul A. F., ed., "Chaco Canyon Pit Houses." *El Palacio* 12 (December 1924): 286-288.