

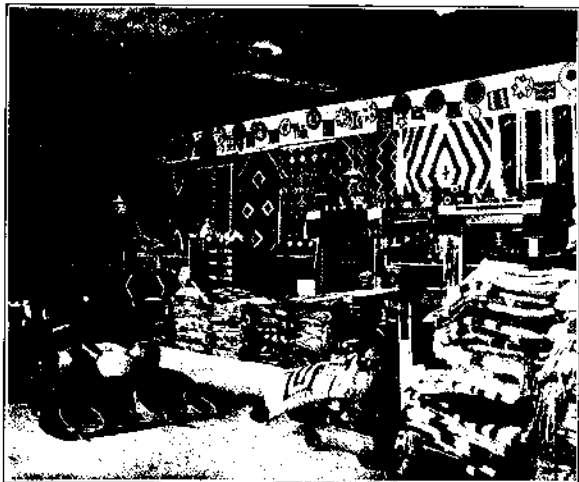
HALL  
OF CURIOS.



FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA.

1908

# HALL OF CURIOS,



Photographed and Compiled by  
L. F. F.

---

FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA.

## CONTENTS.

---

CHAPTER.		PAGE.
I. BLANKETS	- - - - -	3
II. BASKETRY	- - - - -	5
III. POTTERY	- - - - -	7
IV. SILVERWORK	- - - - -	9
V. RELICS	- - - - -	10

## Hall of Curios.

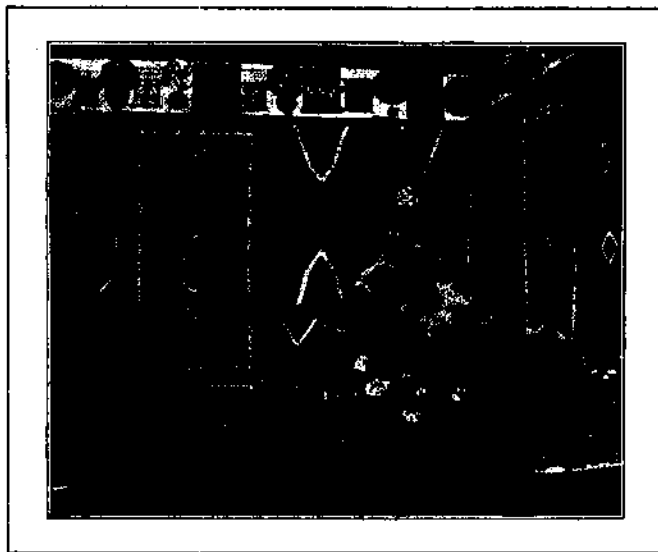
---

### I.

#### BLANKETS—THEIR DESCRIPTION AND USE.

**N**AVAJO is the name of an Indian tribe settled on the borders of New Mexico and Arizona. Its chief industry is blanket weaving. They have achieved in that branch a well-deserved reputation and the Navajo blanket has today become a household article of great value for both useful and decorative purposes. The study of its design is most interesting. Therein we find woven into fabric the secret legends and superstitions of the Navajo Indian, their weaving being, in fact, essentially symbolic. Thus, the red and black are the emblems of the creative spirit. The snake, worshiped by the tribe, trails his curved form over each bit of handiwork. The lightning is represented by profuse zig-zags. The wild goose is represented on the wing. The single cross is the emblem of supplication, while the double cross is the sign of abundance.

Only the experienced and skilled squaws know what fancies, dumb longings and beliefs are woven into each of the many vivid squares. The meaning of blanket designs is wrapped in mystery and secrecy. It takes years to master it. The young weavers of the race have to serve a long apprenticeship. It is only when they have reached a certain age that they are able to accomplish satisfactory work. From the preceding description one may easily infer the



many and varied uses to which Navajo blankets can be put. The native wool blanket cannot be equalled as a fancy rug and lounge cover. It wears well and always retains its bright colors. The blankets made of Germantown yarn equal

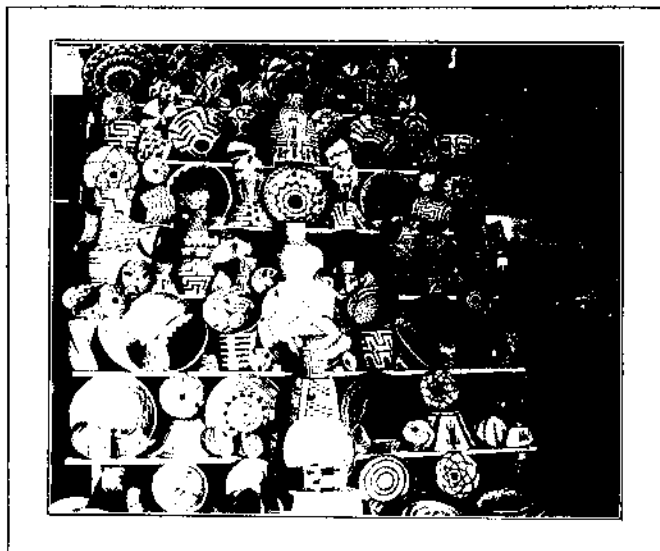
any Turkish drapery for portiers, wall decorations and chair coverings. We justly claim to carry the largest stock of Indian blankets to be found in the United States. Come and see us or write for particulars.

## II.

### BASKETRY.

THE Indian basket is second only to the Navajo blanket in point of variety, symbolism and usefulness for decorative purposes. To attempt a classification of its varieties is an impossible task. As a matter of fact, the forms, designs and colors change with every emotion and feeling of the basket maker. As there is a language of flowers among the botanists, so is there a more expressive one of basketry among the Indian weavers. Everything in their make is emblematic. A young Indian girl, wishing to signify her acceptance of the advances of her wooer, will weave a basket of a certain design, shape and color, present it to the happy suitor and the contract is closed. Again, a basket of a certain design and form is used to represent the "good mother" in the Napoleonic sense of the word, while one of another shape and design will give us to understand that the mother of the family has reached the state so much dreaded by the Hebrew woman of old. We could go on

at great length without exhausting the numberless meanings to be found in Indian basketry. Suffice it to say that every tribe has its own peculiar and racial basket, and without departing from this general characteristic, the squaws of



the tribe find a way of varying the products of their basket industry, according to their feelings and emotions. As it has been said by a well-known author of an interesting book on the subject of Indian basketry: "As Indian baskets are woven by human beings akin to ourselves, and are used by them in a variety of relations of intensely human interest, we are studying humanity under its earliest and simplest phases when we intelligently study Indian bas-

ketry." This industry is practically monopolized by the Indian women. Hence, it has been said, that, through the study of basketry we are introduced into the inmost recesses of the Indian girl's heart. Her life and the principal stages thereof are recounted by the hieroglyphics of Indian basketry.

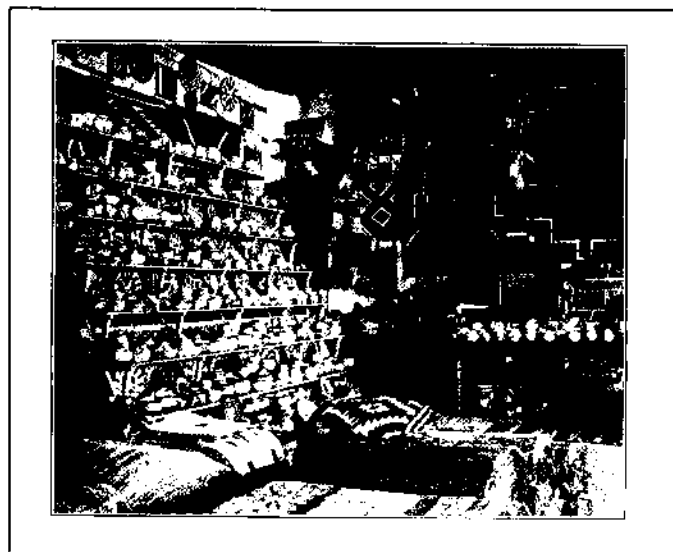
The "plaque" or flat basket is very much in demand as an article of wall decoration.

### III.

#### POTTERY.

WE now come to a branch of Indian industry that is not without interest to the archæologist and the friend of the "Amerind." While Indian pottery cannot in any way be contrasted with "Sevres" porcelain, its study, nevertheless, is replete with interest. There are no two pieces of Indian pottery alike in design, size or coloring. The variety is still greater than that of baskets. To catalogue them would require as many entries as there are pieces of pottery. The most famous pottery makers of the Indians belong to the Zuni, Pueblo and Moqui tribes. The designs lavished on every piece are symbolical. Many of their cooking utensils bear the picture of the article of food to be cooked therein. When the lucky nimrod returns from a hunting expedition with a burden of delicious venison, quail, goose, or duck, it is

left to simmer in the utensil appropriately decorated. The materials principally used in pottery making are black and red clay and vegetal paint. The process by which the Indians impart to their pottery the much-admired glossy appearance is a secret, and pottery glazing is an art known only to a few of the Indian tribes. Hence it is, that while, most of the tribes make pottery, only a few of them can model in clay a relatively high-polished article.

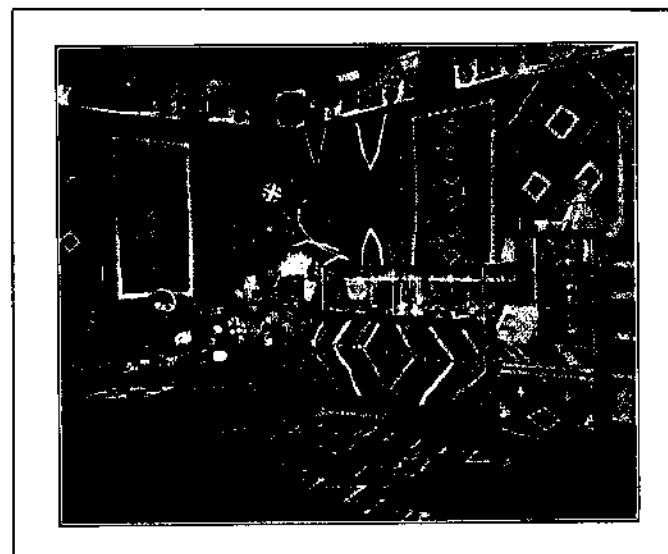


We claim for our assortment the enviable position of being the most extensive and comprehensive in the Southwest. We are headquarters as we are located in the very midst of the pottery making Indians.

#### IV.

##### SILVER-WORK.

**I**NCREDIBLE and fiction-like as this may seem, the art of silversmithing is not of yesterday among the Indians. The Navajo silver work, like turquoise rings, bracelets, belts and



necklaces has become very fashionable on account of its primitive style and unquestionable genuineness. Anyone can, upon close inspection of the articles, discover traces and signs of the silver coins used and pounded down into the varied shapes of silver jewelry. As appropriate presents for ladies, gentlemen cannot find

anything better than Navajo jewelry, of which our hall contains a most varied assortment. Bracelets of all sizes, shapes and styles; buckles of different designs; buttons of all descriptions, used by ladies for shirtwaist studs, cuff buttons and hat pins, are found in our exhibit.

We have, in connection with this department, a very fine display of bead work made by the Mojave tribe. The many colored beads are arranged into most artistic designs. The ladies' belts, chains and watch fobs have become quite a fad.

Orders by mail receive our close attention.

---

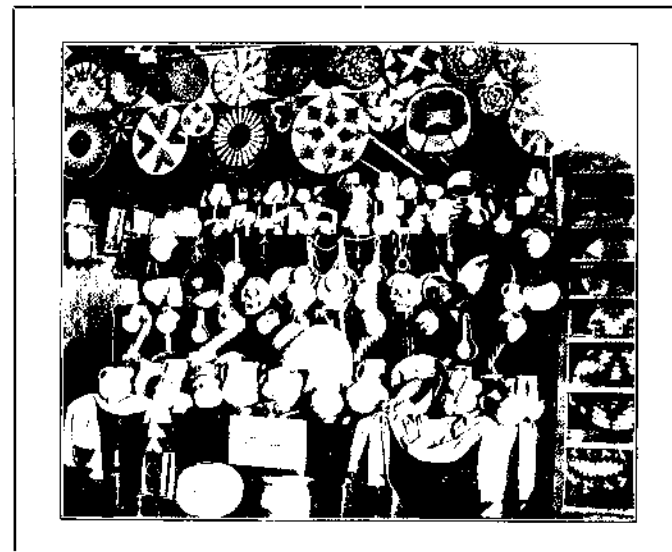
## V.

### RELICS.

**W**E place under this head prehistoric pottery, pieces of garments worn by famous Indian chiefs, also, mummies and other objects dug out of ancient burying grounds which are today the sites of prosperous cities and towns. The student of archeology finds in these unearthed remains of an extinct race a most interesting field of research, while the layman feels an aroused interest in the early history of the country in the possession of arrows, bows, war clubs, battle axes, tomahawks, sashes, musical instruments, pottery, charred corn, beads, bone awls, needles, earrings, noserings, bracelets, necklaces and moccasins that were once the property

of the ancestors, companions, wives or children of the great Indian warriors, such as Victoria Geronimo and others.

Though few, the foregoing remarks are enough to give a general idea of our interesting exhibit



and convince the curio hunter that a visit will undoubtedly result in valuable additions to his collection.

We will be pleased to quote prices on any article contained in our Hall of Curios, and give anyone asking further information our best attention on any questions pertaining to the Indian industries.

BABBITT BROTHERS,  
Flagstaff, Arizona.

ANCIENT HOMES  
OF THE  
CLIFF DWELLERS,



NINE MILES FROM FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA,

on the Santa Fe railroad. See that your ticket is good to stop over and see these prehistoric ruins. Personal attention will be given to all tourists.