



FREDERICK WEBB HODGE — 1864–1956

Known from coast to coast and far beyond as editor, anthropologist, historian, and man of letters, Frederick Webb Hodge came to the end of a long and exceptionally full life in Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 28, 1956. In another month his local friends would have celebrated his 92nd anniversary. We are indebted to Lonnie Hull, photographer, and to the Southwest Museum for the accompanying recent photograph.

Born to Edwin and Emily (Webb) Hodge in Plymouth, England, October 28, 1864, Fred was brought by his parents to the United States at the age of seven. He attended public school at Washington, D.C., and Columbian College (now George Washington University). He was awarded the honorary degree of Sc.D. by Pomona College in 1933, an LL.D. by the University of New Mexico in 1934, and the degree of Litt.D. by the University of Southern California in 1943.

After college Hodge was employed for a time as secretary in a Washington law office; later, from 1884 to 1886, as stenographer in the U.S. Geological Survey. His initial anthropological experience came in 1886 when he was chosen by Frank Hamilton Cushing, the director, as field secretary of the Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological Expedition, organized in Boston for explorations in New Mexico and Arizona. Serving with this organization through 1889 he became familiar with the Indians of New Mexico and Arizona, archaeological field methods, and the wealth of maps and documentary evidence collected for the Expedition by Adolph E. Bandelier. From this beginning Hodge eventually came to be recognized as one of our foremost authorities on Spanish colonial history and the various Indian tribes of the Southwest.

Returning to Washington in the summer of 1889 Hodge was appointed to the staff of the Bureau of American Ethnology. With but little delay his older associates, those stalwarts of yesterday including J. Owen Dorsey, H. W. Henshaw, Garrick Mallery, Washington Matthews, and James Mooney, learned to rely upon his knowledge of Southwestern tribes and their surroundings. We find a note from him in Mindeleff's "Pueblo Architecture" relative to stone rings at the old Zuni ruin of Halona. George Parker Winship acknowledged his aid in preparing the list of reference works in *The Coronado Expedition, 1540-1542*. He assisted J. Walter Fewkes in excavations at Sikyatki in 1895; in further archaeological researches along the Little Colorado in 1897; elsewhere in 1899. To verify an Acoma tradition, sometimes doubted, he scaled the Enchanted Mesa at the request of the Bureau in 1897 and brought back a few potsherds from the summit. His documentary knowledge and divers activities were recognized in nearly every annual report of the Bureau published between 1891 and 1925.

In 1893 when the Bureau of American Ethnology moved to the sixth floor of the Adams Building, 1333-1335 F. Street, N.W., Hodge was appointed librarian in addition to his other duties and he not only cataloged and rearranged its 2600 volumes but soon doubled their number through an expanded exchange program. By July, 1894, he was doing the major share of the Bureau's editorial work and, at the same time, was collecting and arranging

material for the proposed "Synonymy or Cyclopedia of Indian Tribes." He compiled (1897) the Bureau's first list of publications and revised it at intervals thereafter.

In 1901 Hodge transferred to the Smithsonian Institution as executive assistant in charge of International Exchanges but rejoined the Bureau of American Ethnology 4 years later to take full charge of the "Synonymy." As *The Handbook of the American Indians North of Mexico*, published as Bulletin 30, Parts 1 and 2, in 1907 and 1910, this famed 2-volume work speedily won international laurels and remains today one of the foremost contributions to American anthropology. Hodge was briefly in charge of the whole Bureau during the summer of 1893 but his administrative ability was more fully recognized January 1, 1910, when he was designated Ethnologist-in-charge. In this capacity he served with mounting distinction until February 28, 1918, when he resigned and moved to New York City.

In New York, as its anonymous editor and assistant director, Hodge brought increased prestige to the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. This new association also provided opportunity for resumption of archaeological field work. Jointly with the director, George G. Heye, and George H. Pepper, a staff member, he excavated and reported upon (1918) the Nacoochee Mound, in Georgia. This was followed in 1919 by organization of the Museum's Hendricks-Hodge Expedition for explorations at the historic Zuni villages of Hawikuh and Kechipauan, identified as among the original "Seven Cities of Cibola." Owing to factors beyond control of the 2 principals, the major report on these extensive researches never came to press although a number of lesser papers appeared under Hodge's signature, including the following: "The Age of the Zuni Pueblo of Kechipauan" (1920), "Hawikuh Bonework" (1920), "Turquoise Work of Hawikuh" (1921), "Circular Kivas near Hawikuh" (1923), "Snake Pens at Hawikuh, New Mexico" (1924), "The Six Cities of Cibola, 1581-1680" (1926), and "A Square Kiva at Hawikuh" (1939). His definitive *History of Hawikuh* was issued in 1937 as the first number under the Frederick Webb Hodge Anniversary Publication Fund, administered by the Southwest Museum. The final Hawikuh reports, it is now believed, are to be published by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation.

In 1932 the Board of Trustees chose Hodge as director of the Southwest Museum, an institution founded by his long-time friend, Charles F. Lummis, and one in which anthropology and Spanish-American history are fortunately and naturally blended. Here, during what may have been the happiest period of his life, Hodge served with increased distinction until, following a sabbatical year, he retired in 1956 as Director Emeritus and moved to Santa Fe.

With its strong Spanish flavor, its historical background, its libraries and museums, its nearby Pueblo villages and their ruined predecessors, Santa Fe had long been an irresistible magnet. Returning to New Mexico after many years on the east coast and the west, Dr. Hodge carried with him plans for several old and new research projects. Among these was a fresh study of the Apache, made for the Department of Justice in connection with Indian land claims.

Throughout his life Frederick Webb Hodge was an indefatigable worker. He crowded 2 days into one. The total product of his extra-curricular industry is incredible. He was a member of the Anthropological Society of Washington and a contributor to its *American Anthropologist* as early as 1891; he served annually on the Society's editorial committee and was elected secretary and managing editor in January, 1899. He was a founder of the American Anthropological Association and editor of the *American Anthropologist*, new series, from volume 5 (1903) through volume 16 (1914). He not only edited all the publications of the Bureau of American Ethnology, the Museum of the American Indian, and the Southwest Museum during his administrative connection with these institutions but he also edited, among others, Edward S. Curtis's *The North American Indian*, a monumental work in 20 volumes and 20 portfolios, the Holmes Anniversary Volume (1916), and the several reports of the XXIII International Congress of Americanists (1928); moreover, if the subject matter was difficult and complex, he insisted upon preparing the index himself.

During this same period Hodge enriched numerous other historical and scientific monographs with his introductions or annotations. He was a founder and one of the editors of the Quivira Society whose 12 volumes record

in superb format otherwise unavailable documents relating to Mexico and the Spanish Southwest. Altogether, his bibliography includes more than 350 titles and is to be published, with a fuller biography, by the Zambrano Club of Los Angeles. Hodge was long a Trustee of the School of American Research and of the Laboratory of Anthropology, in Santa Fe, and a member of a dozen or more literary and scientific societies in this country and abroad.

To his intimates Hodge was affectionately known as Téluli, a name given him in December, 1886, by the 3 Zuni whom Cushing had taken east and who were returning with him and his party to inaugurate fieldwork of the Hemenway Expedition. A folktale related by one of the Zuni en route told of a field mouse happily digging holes on sacred Corn Mountain and singing "Téluli, téluli" as he dug—until a hawk flew over. And from that chance story young Hodge, a gay and interested bystander, became Téluli. Literally translated "dig your cellar," the name was singularly prophetic for a dirt archaeologist. (We are indebted to Mrs. Hodge for this corrected version of the naming and for other factual matter herein.)

Despite an outward appearance of casualness, Frederick Webb Hodge was a methodical person. He had to be to keep order in his over-full hours. There was a rare gentleness about him, in the office or at home; one finds an old-fashioned clarity and preciseness in all that he wrote. Yet he was fun-loving, a practical joker, and a wonderful story-teller. His fund of anecdotes about Smithsonian associates, for example—Secretary Langley, Major J. W. Powell, W J McGee, Gerard Fowke, Matilda Coxe Stevenson, and others—enlivened many a dinner table. He was a gracious host and an ever-welcome guest.

Hodge was first married to Margaret W. Magill, a sister-in-law of Frank Hamilton Cushing, August 31, 1891; later, to Zarah H. Preble, who died in 1934. With him through most of his directorship of Southwest Museum and through the months of retirement in Santa Fe was the present Mrs. Hodge, the former Gene Meany, artist and author, who composed late in 1956 the following personal tribute:

TO
FREDERICK WEBB HODGE

By
GENE MEANY

The Corn was ripe,
The harvest abundant,
In the Autumn of his life,
(Winter never came),
When Aspen covered the Mountain tops
With Golden light against Turquoise skies;
When fragrance of early piñon fires
Scented the air in the Land he loved,
This Land of his returning.

After a happy day in the mountains,
Fred quickly slipped away.

“It is finished in Beauty,”
Says a Navaho prayer, and
All who love Téluli know

“Beauty is before him as he goes,
Beauty is behind him,
He walked in Beauty,
In Beauty . . . it is finished.”

NEIL M. JUDD
M. R. HARRINGTON
S. K. LOTHROP