1-1-1987

Errors in the Sapir-Lowie Correspondence
I. Further Notes on the Alfred Vincent Kidder Papers

Tristram R. Kidder, Ph. D. candidate in anthropology at Harvard University, who has been designated by the surviving children of A. V. Kidder as the family member responsible for the A. V. Kidder papers, offers further information regarding the disposition of these papers (cf. Givens, in HAN XIII:2).

The papers are now archived in two places on the Harvard campus. All personal diaries, papers, correspondence, etc. are housed in the University Archives of Harvard University. Access to these papers will be free to all, with the stipulation that a family member review any requests for publication of quoted material. No restrictions to access have been placed on these papers except those already established by Harvard University Archives. However, the papers may require some time to accession and catalogue. Further information is available from Tristram Kidder, c/o the Harvard University Archives.

Papers relating directly to Kidder’s archeological research and/or other scholarly interests have been placed in the Peabody Museum Archives and files, and access is limited only by the needs of the archivist. Information is available by writing the director of the Peabody Museum.

II. Errors in the Sapir-Lowie Correspondence

Piero Matthey (cf. below, "Research in Progress") reports that the Letters from Edward Sapir to Robert H. Lowie, with an introduction and notes by Robert H. Lowie (1965) is marred by a number of errors, which apparently arose in the process of transcription. In the examples below, the underlined errors are corrected in brackets:

(p.18) Barbeau, who is out in the Lower St. Lawrence country collecting French-Canadian folk-lore, is agile and smart, but strangely uninteresting. Carrying on a conversation with him is often as painful as an ordeal, at least to me. How he delights in the use of [deluges one with] platitudes and how childishly his self-esteem paces, all out of step [oozes all out of him]!

(p.32) Everyone to his own last [taste]! Problems interest me less and less; impressions and temperaments [impressions of the fleeting moment], more and more. Actually, I am "poetically" getting ready for something. [After all, old boy, "problems" are getting ready for something] Then what?

(p. 63) When I can get round to it, I should rather like to submit to you a paper on general [genetic] classification of N. American Indian languages.