Arizona Star, Tucson, Monday, Oct 30 1961

Arctic Area Migration Theory Is Challenged

Savant Reports On Findings In Alaska

BRISTOL, R. I., Oct. 29 (AP) —A Brown University anthropologist challenged the popular scientific theory of mass migration eastward from Siberia through the Arctic regions of North America and on to Greenland in ancient times.

On the basis of studies in Alaska's Bering Strait region, believes there was no great movement of Asiatic peoples across the land bridge that once connected Siberia with Asaska, as other scientists and their textbooks long have maintained.

There was a "circumpolar spread" or "drift" of ideas and methods freely across the Arctic region all the way from central Siberia to Greenland but no great movement of peoples in the precise definition of "migration," Dr. Giddings is convinced.

He has dug up evidence of strong and almost unbroken occupation of cultures in western Alaska dating back to 4,000 BC and Dr. Giddings is convinced that "the same gene pool" has continued in that region for at least 6,000 years.

"Spread is the answer, and not migration," the Brown scientist declared at a press briefing on his past four summers of archeological research. The briefing was held at the Haffenerffer Museum of the American Indian, where Dr. Giddings and his associates are processing some 15,000 man made objects accumulated in Alaskan excavations.

Scientific textbooks, he said, have taken two views of the theory of migration out of Asia. Some talk in terms of people on the march, packs upon their backs, to a promised land. Others consider that there was no movement in hordes but a trickling movement eastward, impeded by the young and aged, as though it were a forced march. Dr. Giddings has traced the "continuity of population" in the Cape Prince of Wales area of Alaska—the farthest western point of the North American continent — back 6,000 years to the "Denbish Flint Complex." This Alaskan culture achieved "enormously detailed" results in the flint work points (arrow and spear heads) unearthed by Dr. Giddings and his associates.

He described it as "the most meticulous and detailed flint work anywhere in the world." They were not content with ordinary engraving tools but developed needle-pointed flints with which they worked stone so intricately that it must be examined under magnification to be appreciated.

They 'Shook 'Em Up'

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