

# Indian Culture On Record

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Special to The Christian Science Monitor

**Bristol, R.I.**

On a beautiful estate here, an area that was a headquarters for the Indian leader, King Philip, in the 1600's, stands a memorial to the culture of the American Indian.

The Haffenreffer Museum of the American Indian on the Mt. Hope estate, nestled in the wooded rolling hills overlooking Narragansett Bay, is operated by Brown University.

The museum, open to the public, has one large room devoted entirely to Indian artifacts arranged according to the geographical areas in which they were found. Included is one of the largest arrowhead collections in the country, representing almost every state in the union.

"When I first came here in 1956," says Dr. J. Louis Giddings, professor of anthropology and director of the museum, "I had the seeming impossible task of classifying cataloguing, and displaying the collection."

## Thousands of Items

The collection includes many thousands of arrowheads, farming and cooking tools, ceremonial headdresses, examples of Indian metal jewelry, basketry, bead and leather work, rugs, pottery, a dugout, and burial remains found in the vicinity.

Indian tribes from New England are represented in the collection, tribes from the Southwest, and from South and Central America.

Formerly, the collection included a "tribe" of perhaps 150 wooden Indians from all over the United States. Now there is only one survivor of these, standing straight and tall, looking like a George Catlin or Frederic Remington subject.

The others were auctioned off some time ago.

Since acquiring the museum, Brown University has added to and developed the collection. A small Arctic room, opening directly from the Indian room, has been added by Dr. Giddings, who is an authority on Arctic culture. This room includes a kayak, arrowheads, spearheads for whale hunting, cooking utensils, and other artifacts collected on expeditions to western Alaska.

Another room is given over to African tribal arts, and similar items from the south Pacific, and the two Americas.

Included in the exhibit are articles from the Congo, Nigeria, and from the upper Amazon region of South America—recently given to the museum. Some of the items in the tribal arts room are on loan from the University Museum of Philadelphia.

## Expansion Hoped For

"I hope to add to the museum's holdings by encouraging able students and staff members to collect materials while carrying out surveys and studies in various parts of our world," Dr. Giddings says.

The museum is visited by some 14,000 persons a year and maintains a special program for school children. It offers frequent changes of exhibits by collecting some 5,000 artifacts a year.

The museum is an important laboratory for sociology and anthropology students from Pembroke College and Brown University.

In addition to the materials on display the museum stores a massive amount of unclassified artifacts in a neighboring converted dairy barn. Dr. Giddings and his staff are working hard to study and classify these.