

Museum Seeks Statue's Origin

PROVIDENCE (AP) — Brown University Prof. Lewis Giddings has appealed to the public for clues to identification of a foot-high stone image of primitive design unearthed some time ago from under the door slab of an old house in Wakefield, R. I.

The image is on display at the university's Haffenreffer Museum of the American Indian, of which Prof. Giddings is director. But the anthropologist believes the curio could be as well of Polynesian as of Indian origin. Or it could be a fake, he said.

A Yale University anthropologist has advanced the possibility the little soapstone statue was brought here by South Sea whalers. However, the Wakefield house under which it lay is from 200-300 years old, pre-dating the whaling era in this country.

The image has an upturned, flat disk of a face with chiseled slits for eyes and mouth. Arms and hands are at rest across the front of the body column.

The male figure was loaned Professor Giddings for display by C. W. Woodmansee of Norwich, Conn., a collector of Indian materials.