

THE RESEARCH PROGRAMS



WATSON SMITH, (LEFT) AND ROY CRAWFORD TRENCHING A REFUSE SITE DURING THE RAINBOW BRIDGE/MONUMENT VALLEY EXPEDITION. SMITH, A LONGTIME SOUTHWEST ARCHAEOLOGIST, SERVED AS ACTING DIRECTOR FOR ONE SUMMER AND ALSO AS AN MNA TRUSTEE FOR MANY YEARS. PHOTO BY CLIFFORD BOND, 1935. (MNA COLLECTIONS MS122-1659)

"Meanwhile the work goes quietly and steadily on, as the great scroll of the pre-historic southwest unfolds at the touch of the Science of man," wrote Charles Amsden in 1927 in his account of the first Pecos Archaeology Conference, which Dr. Colton attended. Amsden's phrase aptly describes Dr. Colton's philosophy toward scientific investigations in northern Arizona as part of MNA's mission.

As MNA Director, Dr. Colton believed that the Museum should be a research institution as well as a storehouse for historic objects. He quickly organized the scientific part of the operation into wide-ranging studies by hiring research staff, seeking visiting scientists to stay and work at MNA, encouraging the publication of research efforts, establishing programs to support students, and hosting scientific conferences. He himself

became involved in many personal projects, from the study of volcanoes to the classification of potsherds. He led excavations and other scientific activities and assembled an outstanding library of scholarly works. Through his tireless work,

MNA came to be known as an important research institution that emphasized cooperative work with similar organizations and academic facilities.

Dr. Colton's office at Coyote Range (the family's residential complex) was the initial site for his research efforts. Collections were stored there, as well as at the Flagstaff Woman's Club and the Monte Vista Hotel. Construction of the Exhibits building allowed for almost-adequate storage space (some collections remained at Colton's office) and provided offices for staff researchers.

After World War II, collections facilities moved again to what became known as the H.S. Colton