

Press Release: IMMEDIATELY

ATTENTION: ART EDITOR

Dr. Paul S. Wingert, art historian of Columbia University, will be at the Portland Art Museum until September 17 to complete a detailed study of the prehistoric stone sculpture of the Columbia River area. Dr. Wingert is a pioneer among art historians; he is one of the first to treat seriously the history of the arts of so-called primitive peoples. He is the author of many books and articles, having written extensively on the sculpture of Negro Africa, the Pacific Islanders and the Indians of the Northwest Coast.

While writing his book on the wood sculpture of the Northwest coast Indians, Dr. Wingert became very much interested in a few scattered examples of the stone sculpture of the area, which he came upon in anthropological museums in the East and in Canada. The more he saw of these simple but powerful figures of animals and ~~figures~~ ^{deities}, the more convinced he became that they were made by a people of early civilization centered on the rivers of the Northwest, and preceding the Indian peoples found by the first white settlers.

It is very likely that there are many of these stone sculptures still in this region, some of them in the collections of people interested in Indian artifacts, others forgotten in basements and back yards. Dr. Wingert is eager to see any of these works or to get information on the whereabouts of stone sculptures which may prove to be authentic examples. He may be reached at the Portland Art Museum.

Partly as a result of Dr. Wingert's study the Museum has scheduled for next March a comprehensive exhibition: THE STONE SCULPTURE OF THE PREHISTORIC NORTHWEST. Examples will be borrowed from Museums and private collections in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the country.

*M + Mrs. Thomas C. Colet 22.
Jo. Rayner =
Portland art museum
photo and museum*