

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

77TH STREET AND CENTRAL PARK WEST

NEW YORK April 20, 1918.

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
CLARK WISSLER, Ph.D., CURATOR
PLINY E. GODDARD, Ph.D.,
CURATOR OF ETHNOLOGY

Dear Doctor Douglass:

As I wrote you some time ago, I intended to see Mr. Morris regarding the number of tree sections on hand and the securing of sections from living trees, as requested in your letter. Mr. Morris reports that the greater part of the timbers now found in the Aztec ruin are spruce. I do not know whether you intended to include spruce as pine in writing to me, but to make sure would you drop me a line as to whether it would also be advisable to furnish you with sections of spruce timbers and parallel sections cut from living trees in the vicinity.

The point that appeals most to me now is the possibility of comparing the timbers from the ruins in the Chaco Valley with those in the vicinity of Aztec to the north. I infer from your past work that it would be possible to determine whether these were contemporaneous or not. In any case, we shall try to furnish you with sections from timbers in both ruins together with parallel cuttings from living trees from the vicinity.

Very truly yours,

Clark Wissler

*Spruces in Northern N.M.
Picea Engelmannii
Pungens
J. J. Thorne*

Dr. A. E. Douglass,
University of Arizona,
Tucson, Arizona.

CW:BW

Ans
APR 29 1918

Thoruber

to Spruce OK
fir rings

Douglas Fir = Spruce
Pseudotsuga mucronata

He will make out
a schedule

APR 29 1918

April 30, 1918.

Dr. Clark Wissler,
American Museum Natural History,
77th Street, Central Park West,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Wissler:

I have yours of April 20th, and would say that I believe spruce is just as good as pine. I have used some samples of spruce from Sweeden that gave admirable results. The only condition is that the living trees from the neighborhood should include spruce. I am even inclined to think that it would be safe to include both spruce and pine in one group, provided the comparison, living trees, also include both.

I think it would be possible to get evidence on the timbers from Chaco Valley and Aztec as to whether the ruins were contemporaneous. Of course, it is advantageous to have the sections include as many rings as possible. If they overlap for fifty years I think there would be a good chance of finding it out. I mean if the tree rings in part cover the same fifty years, it would be likely to show, especially if a good number of trees were obtained.

Let me know when you are likely to send it on. It is possible that during next year I would have time to devote to it. It is a valuable ^{test} ~~list~~ and I would be very glad to find out if the rings of trees could be made to give us just that kind of information.

Very truly yours,

Director, Steward Observatory.

AED/S.