New Anthropology Prof To Explore Ancient Village Sites In Near East

By HARVEY POLLARD

How does one find evidence of the oldest domestic plants in the world? The answer to this question and others concerning the history of our civilization is to be attempted soon by a new acquisition to the Rice University Department of Anthropology, Dr. Frank Hole.

DR. HOLE, currently of the University of Chicago, and slated to join the University in two semesters as assistant professor of Anthropology, will be the field director on a trip that will take him through most of the country of Iran in his quest this summer.

According to Dr. Edward Norbeck, head of the Department of Anthropology at Rice, the earliest findings of this sort to date have been found near Jarmo, Iraq. Hole will be exploring the ancient village sites along the rolling hills on the flanks of the Euphrates. The official title of the expedition is “Rice-Oriental Institute (University of Chicago) Expedition to Iran.”

DR. NORBECK mentioned a few of the methods that Hole will be using to determine whether or not his findings are of the great antiquity that he desires. One of the methods is by radioactive carbon. Individual grain seeds would be tested, this being made possible by their being carbonized by fire or being preserved from insects in some other way. Another method would be to examine pottery found on the same levels of ground for impressions made by these ancient ornamental craftsmen on the unfired clay.

DR. HOLE will be making his explorations with a company of about eight or ten, and will camp in the dangerous hill country until late next fall. He will then join the faculty at Rice in the second semester.