

KINGSTON (ILLINOIS) FOCUS OF THE
MISSISSIPPI CULTURE

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The Kingston Indian Village Site is located on a terrace-like rise of ground bordering the north shore of the lake and covers an area of ten acres. The terrace is a black loam from one foot to three feet in depth over a lense-like body of clay from zero to three feet deep. On this body of clay rested the village floor, from which the Indian artifacts were collected.

The many determinants taken from this site point strongly to the Monk's Mound aspect of the Middle Mississippi cultural phase.

Perforated *shell hoes* were very numerous, more than 140 were collected.

Deer jaw hoes were common and showed much wear at point of hafting and also at point of use. Many *potsherd hoes* were also collected.

Stone implements consisted of pitted stone, whet stone or sharpener, anchors, sinkers, sandstone mortars or paint stones, and many small celts.

The *projectiles* were the thin triangular edged type of stone. A few were made from deer horn. *Knives* were the thin flaked edged type. *Scrapers* of the bunt variety were numerous. Bone and horn *acls* were very common, over 100 were collected.

Other determinants were beamers, game bones, wooden ear-spools (copper jacketed), skull trophies, discoidals, large effigy pipe (of stone), tempered pottery paste (not fired), wedge tools of horn and bone, bone plaques, pottery tools of the mushroom type, fragments of many bone ornaments, woven fabric of several weaves, carbonized corn and cobs, pecans, walnuts, and hickory nuts, also thin flakes of copper. Copper beads and over 690 shell beads came from one cache.

Pottery of the globular type, smooth and cord-imprinted shell-tempered, decorated and plain were found at all campfire sites and in storage pits. The outstanding characteristic of the sherds procured is the great variety of pots they represent, viz, ollas, plates, shallow bowls, bottle tops, and beakers which vary as to shape of rim, lip, shoulder, decoration, and handles.

Ollas, the globular shaped vessels, have their outer surface textile imprinted or smooth. A few show finger imprints on inner and outer wall. The rims also have a wide range of style, viz: flaring, verticle, rolled and flat. The decorations are mostly of incised geometrical designs on the shoulder of the vessel. Some of the small ollas have effigy forms on rims and handles.

The *plates* are shallow and of various sizes; black and red in color, and have decorated rims. A few are scalloped.

The *shallow bowls* are of various sizes with a maximum diameter of nineteen inches. They have rimless thick walls ending in a flat lip, and are without decoration. A few show fabric marking on the base.

The *bottle tops* are globular, like the ollas, but have contracted necks and narrow rims and are without decoration.

The *beakers* are the most unique of all the types. The walls are thin, verticle or slightly flared, the base flat, and the pots small compared with the other types. Red and black colors predominate. The decoration consists of scroll work and incised lines and the design covers the outer wall of the vessel. Many have effigy-like forms for handles. The effigy forms of others extend from the vessel lip. The colors are red to black and polished.

Several more traits of these people have been found at the Kingston Site, which point, no doubt, to the Middle Mississippi classification.