

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CHICAGO AREA

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In spite of the fact that the Chicago area was an important center for Indian trails and portages, our knowledge of the archaeology of the region is very meager. On the maps of Albert Scharf, which show the locations of the Indian trails and sites of the area for the early part of the century, are listed sixteen major Indian villages, fifteen minor villages, forty camps, and twelve mounds or mound groups. There are two private collections in the area which are worthy of note, the Haase collection and the Schupp collection.

The material in the Haase collection is reported to have come from a mound which was located within the present confines of the Forest Home Cemetery in Forest Park, Illinois. The mound was graded down about forty years ago and in the process many skeletons and artifacts were discovered; of this material a large number of the artifacts were saved but only two skulls were preserved. The material includes grooved axes, celts, club-heads, various flint implements, bone and shell beads, a few potsherds and a considerable number of post-European objects. The flint work is represented by notched, triangular, and stemmed arrowpoints and by drills and scrapers. The post-European material includes two iron axes, four iron knives, several copper and silver buckles, copper rings, copper bracelets, two cross pendants, small copper rings fastened in rows on cloth, and three copper kettles. The initials "P. H." are engraved upon one of the silver ornaments. The objects of wood are two short-handled dippers.

The Schupp collection is said to have come from the Bowmanville village site which is located along the southern edge of the Rose Hill Cemetery in the City of Chicago. Stone objects in the collection include celts, fully-grooved axes, three-quarter-grooved axes, club-heads, discoidal stones, banded slate gorgets and bird stones, and flint implements. The flint work consists of side-notched, stemmed, and triangular arrowpoints in about equal numbers, and drills and scrapers. There are a few grit-tempered and shell-tempered rim-sherds whose decorations consist of incised and stamped designs and small round perforations.

The Coghill Mound group which lies just southwest of the City of Chicago was investigated by the University of Chicago in 1927. Three mounds were excavated and yielded several undecorated grit-tempered potsherds, one arrowpoint, one celt, a few flint chips, fragments of charcoal, and three badly disintegrated skeletons.

The Huber Village site, located at Blue Island, was excavated in 1929 by the University of Chicago. The site consists of a deposit of black soil, ashes, and charcoal in which are scattered artifacts, flint chips, stones, and

numerous animal bones. The depth of the deposit varied greatly from place to place but was deepest at the fire-pits where it extended down three feet from the surface. Several burials found by workmen were destroyed before the archaeologists were called in; these were said to have been in an extended position and a celt was found with one of them as well as some fragments of pottery and a fragment of leather. Three more burials were found grouped close together and apparently in an extended position; with one of these burials a musical rasp of bone was found. Over fourteen hundred potsherds were found but no complete vessels. All of the sherds are shell-tempered except several which are grit-tempered. The ware is light buff to gray and is composed of fine clay and fragments of shell. The vessels represented by the sherds are bowls, vases, and olla-like containers. Most of the sherds indicate that the vessels had flaring rims; the rims are undecorated except on the superior surface which is usually marked by a series of indentations of various kinds. Some of the rim-sherds have loop handles which are either plain or decorated by vertical grooves. The bodies of the vessels are decorated with long incised lines which are slightly diagonal from the vertical and vary from fine to broad incised lines. A great variety of bone work is present in the Huber material but awls are most numerous; other bone artifacts are flat needles with an eye at one end, split beaver teeth, deer horn arrowpoints, beamers of the "draw-knife" type, small cylinders of deer horn, and cut fragments of bone. The so-called musical rasp found with one of the burials is made of an animal bone and is about twelve inches long, one inch wide, and a quarter of an inch thick; along one side is a series of twenty-three transverse grooves about one eighth of an inch in depth. The stone work includes arrowpoints, flint scrapers, flint knives, one grooved axe, one celt, one grooved club-head, one crude sandstone pipe, a variety of hammerstones, and several large mortars. Only one side-notched arrowpoint occurs; all the rest are small triangular points. Spoons made of Unio shell are present as well as several fragments of a marine shell. One object of copper about ten inches long and about one eighth of an inch in diameter was found.

In summary, there are apparently several different cultures represented in the Chicago area. That of the Huber site is very similar to the Middle-Level of the Fisher site near Joliet which has been classed with the Fort Ancient culture. The Bowmanville village site material on the one hand shows relationship to the Lake Michigan culture of Wisconsin and on the other resembles the Illinois variant of the Hopewell culture. Finally there remain the post-European culture of the Forest Home Mound, which as yet has not been correlated, and the culture represented by the Coghill Mound group which cannot be determined due to the lack of diagnostic material.