

The Hopewell Site Collection
at the Field Museum:
A Finding Aid to the Objects and Related Records

Prepared by Tristan T. Almazan
Collections Assistant, Dept. of Anthropology

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Cataloguing and Maintenance

A majority of the Hopewell Site Collection has been at the Field Museum since its founding in 1893. The collection was added onto in 1925 and just recently in 1999. However, through the years, pieces have been subtracted from the collection through exchanges with other museums and individuals, and I dare say, a few pieces are just missing. Many hands touch a collection in 112 years, leading to both enlightenment and confusion.

Warren K. Moorehead, who excavated most of our Hopewell Site Collection, kept field notes (housed in the Museum Archives) and wrote a report on the Hopewell Site in 1922. However, his information is sometimes contradictory to the specimens and the site itself. When Moorehead sent the collection to the Field Museum after the World's Columbian Exposition, anthropology staff numbered the objects and created catalogue cards and entries in a catalogue book. Unfortunately, staff only provided a limited amount of information for each object.

The Department of Anthropology has gained little more information on the collection throughout the many years it has been cared for and exhibited here. However, in 1985, Patricia Essenpreis and Michael Moseley, a curator in the Department of Anthropology from 1983-1985, began a project to re-catalogue and produce a manuscript on the Hopewell Site Collection. The project was funded by NEH and submitted in conjunction with the Ohio Historical Society (OHS). Essenpreis and University of Chicago student David Jessup completed cataloguing forms for many of the Field Museum's Hopewell objects. Various authors began preparing chapters for a publication and the Museum's photographer took pictures of the objects. Jim Brown of Northwestern University and N'omi Greber of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History were also involved in the endeavour. However, the project fell apart in 1986 for unknown reasons, and it was never completed. OHS generated a CD using some of the text prepared by Essenpreis and Greber and photographs of objects in their Hopewell Collection (The Hopewell Mound Group: Its People and Their Legacy). Because Essenpreis was the head of the project, her death in 1987 closed the project indefinitely.

Two boxes containing the cataloguing forms, photo proof sheets, and other material from the project, were eventually deposited in the Field Museum Archives. In 2003, during a grant project funded by Save America's Treasures, I came across the boxes and alerted Head of Collections, Steve Nash, to their existence. Nash suggested we try to complete the cataloguing of the collection and create a new database that would help and encourage researchers to use our Hopewell Site Collection. We enlisted the help of University of Chicago student Lauren Zych for the duration of this project, as well as Loyola University student Syeda Razeen in the summer of 2004, and University of Chicago student Kathy Lemberg in the fall of 2005. N'omi Greber also became involved again as a valuable consultant. This finding aid is a product of our efforts. We also completed a database for the collection and plan to create a series of web pages that are part of the Field Museum's internet site.

Regarding the maintenance of the collection, there appears to have been efforts over the life of this collection, most significantly in the last 20 years, to conserve its research and display value. As funding becomes available and relevant projects are carried out, more can be done to maintain the collection. For example, Conservator JP Brown recently stabilized several metal objects in the collection during a project he conducted to conserve archaeological metals. Currently, a staff of conservators are repairing and stabilizing objects that will be exhibited in the new and permanent Hall of the Americas. Collections assistants are also making new containers for several pieces in storage.

The Objects

The following are brief summaries of the accessions that contain Hopewell Site objects. An accession is an object or group of objects that are acquired by the museum at the same time from a single source, such as a donor. Each object is assigned a trinomial number containing the year it was acquired, accession number, and individual catalogue number (e.g. 1893.31.56612). The objects are marked with their individual catalogue numbers only and are referred to by this number most of the time.

Accession 31

Catalogue Numbers: 1893.31.56001-56612, 56701-56867

Catalogue Numbers of Objects from Hopewell Site: All

Collector: Warren K. Moorehead

Source: Department of Ethnology and Archaeology, World's Columbian Exposition.

Collection History: Frederick W. Putnam, head of the Department of Ethnology and Archaeology at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 (held in Chicago), hired Moorehead to excavate the mound builder site of Oregonia. When Moorehead did not recover any grave goods there, he chose to excavate at the Hopewell Site. Putnam displayed the material Moorehead excavated, and the exhibit received several awards at the exposition. The Field Museum (founded as the Chicago Columbian Museum) absorbed the collection after the close of the exposition. The collection has since been studied by many scholars, most notably, Charles Clark Willoughby from 1892 to 1894. Parts of the collection have been almost constantly exhibited at the Field Museum and other museums since 1894 due to public interest in the Hopewell culture.

Date Collected: 1891-1892

Provenience: The approximate number of catalogue numbers associated with each specific provenience within the Hopewell Site are in parentheses.

Mound 1 (1)
 Mound 2 (3)
 Mound 3 (3)
 Mound 4 (5)
 Mound 8 (4)
 Mound 17 [Moorehead Mound #] (16)
 Mound 20 (9)
 Mound 23 (27)
 Mound 24 (6)
 Mound 25 (~400)
 Village Site (8)
 Hopewell Site General (3)
 Hopewell Site Unknown (179)

Known Papers and Publications Related to Accession 31:

Cowan, C. Wesley. 1996. Social Implications of Ohio Hopewell Art, pp. 130-148. *In* Pacheco, Paul J., ed. *A View from the Core: A Synthesis of Ohio Hopewell Archaeology*. The Ohio Archaeological Council, Inc.

Greber, N'omi B. and Ruhl, Katharine C. 1989. *The Hopewell Site: A Contemporary Analysis Based on the Work of Charles C. Willoughby*. Westview Press, Boulder.

———. 2000. *The Hopewell Site: A Contemporary Analysis Based on the Work of Charles C. Willoughby*. Reprinted and revised by Eastern National.

Hughes, Richard E. 1988. Archaeological Significance of Geochemical Contrasts Among Southwestern New Mexico Obsidians. *The Texas Journal of Science* **40**(3): 297-307.

Leader, Jonathan Max. 1988. *Technological Continuities and Specialization in Prehistoric Metalwork in the Eastern United States*. Dissertation to the Graduate School of the University of Florida.

Moorehead, Warren King. 1897. The Hopewell Group. *The Antiquarian* **1**(5): 113-316.

———. 1897(?). The Hopewell Group (Concluded). *The American Archaeologist* **2**: 6-11.

———. 1922. The Hopewell Mound Group of Ohio. *Fieldiana: Anthropology* **6**(6).

Nieburger, E. J. 1988. Isotope Radiography of the Largest Prehistoric Copper Celt. *North American Archaeologist* **10**(1): 55-61.

- . 1991. Hopewell Blast Furnaces. *Central States Archaeology Journal* **38**(3): 134-137.
- Ohio Historical Society. 1995. *The Hopewell Mound Group: Its People and Their Legacy*. CD format.
- Riley, Thomas J. 1979. Metals and Man in the Prehistoric Midwest. *Field Museum of Natural History Bulletin* **50**(2): 4-5, 24-26.
- Schroeder, David L. and Ruhl, Katharine C. 1968. Metallurgical Characteristics of North American Prehistoric Copper Work. *American Antiquity* **33**(2): 162-169.
- Smith, Cyril Stanley. 1965. Metallurgical Study of Early Artifacts Made from Native Copper. XI International Congress of the History of Science, Poland, pp. 237-252.
- . 1972. Metallurgical Footnotes to the History of Art. *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* **116**(2): 97-135.
- White, Ellanor. 1987. *Textiles and Indications of Textiles, Hopewell Mound Group, 1891, at the Field Museum*. Sagamon State University (unknown if published).

Accession 359

Catalogue Numbers: 1893.359.40455, 40456, 41593-41625

Catalogue Numbers of Objects from Hopewell Site: All

Collector(s): Warren K. Moorehead

Source: Department of Ethnology and Archaeology, World's Columbian Exposition.

Collection History: Same as accession 31. These are human remains recovered from the Hopewell Site. Note that some of the human remains were catalogued under accession 31 (those whose provenience was known).

Date Collected: 1891-1892

Provenience: No specific provenience within the Hopewell Site is given for any of these remains.

Accession 1579**Catalogue Numbers:** 1925.1579.110101-110433**Catalogue Numbers of Objects from Hopewell Site:** 1925.1579.110112-110117, 110120-110123, 110125-110134, 110136-110150**Collector(s):** Henry C. Shetrone**Source:** Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society Museum (now the Ohio Historical Society).**Collection History:** In 1925, The Field Museum gave the Society material from its anthropology collections in exchange for material excavated from Ohio by Henry C. Shetrone, the Society's Curator of Archaeology, between 1922 and 1925. Note that the collection contains casts of Hopewell objects that are curated at the Ohio Historical Society.**Date Collected:** 1922-1925**Provenience:***Hopewell Site:*

Mound 2 (1)

Mound 4 (1)

Mound 11 (1)

Mound 17 [Shetrone Mound #] (16)

Mound 25 (15)

Hopewell Site Unknown (1)

Other material:

Adena Mounds

Baum Village Site

Feurt Mounds and Village Site

Gartner Mound and Village Site

Gnadeahutten Ohio Mound

Hine Mounds

Mound City

Tremper Mound

Accession 4072**Catalogue Numbers:** 1999.4072.279379-279777**Catalogue Numbers of Objects from Hopewell Site:** 1999.4072.279409, 279446-279449, 279486, 279487**Collector(s):** Donald O. Boudeman, Warren K. Moorehead**Source:** Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

Collection History: In 1931, the Field Museum gave material from accessions 31, 97, and 727, to Donald O. Boudeman, Curator of Archaeology for the Kalamazoo Public Museum in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in exchange for archaeological material from Michigan. In 1999, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum (KVM) decided to return the exchanged collection to the Field Museum along with other archaeological material. Original Field Museum catalogue numbers were still on 56 objects and thus could be marked as returned in their respective accessions. It is possible that other items were part of the exchange, but existing documentation did not allow them to be matched with their original numbers; thus, they were given new catalogue numbers within this accession. Other objects the KVM gave to the Field Museum that were not a part of the 1931 exchange were also given catalogue numbers within this accession.

Date Collected: 1891 (Moorehead material), unknown

Provenience: Only six objects and one human remain (skull fragment) are identified as Hopewell. The other objects in the accession have the following proveniences:

- Alabama (5)
- California (5)
- Illinois (24)
- Indiana (13)
- Kentucky (1)
- Michigan (54)
- Minnesota (1)
- Missouri (3)
- Ohio (16)
- Tennessee (1)
- Washington (3)
- Wisconsin (110)
- Woodlands, non-specific (154)

No Accession

Catalogue Numbers: 970351-970416, 971025-971027, 971037, 971730

Catalogue Numbers of Objects from Hopewell Site: All

Collector(s): Unknown

Source: Unknown

Collection History: These objects were found in collections storage without catalogue numbers. They were assigned these “temporary” numbers until, if possible, their catalogue numbers could be identified.

Date Collected: Unknown

Provenience: Unknown

The Records

Accession files and catalogue cards

Each accession has a folder or folders of related documents in the Department of Anthropology Records Room. These files contain original accession cards and lists of objects. They may also contain correspondence, notes, research papers, exhibit labels, loan documents, etc. In addition to the accession files, each individually numbered object has its own catalogue card, also located in the Records Room. These files and cards can only be accessed and viewed in the Records Room and are under the care of the Department of Anthropology Registrar.

Archival documents

The Field Museum Archives, a division of the Museum Library, contains archival documents related to the Hopewell Site Collection. The World's Columbian Exposition Expedition to Southern Ohio, 1891, 1892, n.d. archives contain Moorehead's field notes, maps, and manuscripts; an unfinished manuscript by George Dorsey on the excavation's archaeological collections; and lists of objects (not from the Hopewell Site) collected by Harlan Smith. A finding aid for this archival collection is available. The Hopewell Cataloguing Project archives contain material generated during the 1980s re-cataloguing project. The material includes cataloguing forms, notes, correspondence, photo negatives, and photo proof sheets. These archival collections are under the care of the Museum Archivist and can only be viewed by appointment in the Museum Library.

It is worth noting here another set of important archival documents. From 1892 to 1894, Charles C. Willoughby studied the collection and its records. His extensive notes and drawings went with him to the Harvard Peabody Museum, where he became employed

after the exposition, eventually becoming director in 1915. These notes remain in the Peabody Museum archives, but have recently been edited and published (Greber, N'omi B. and Ruhl, Katherine C. 2000. *The Hopewell Site: A Contemporary Analysis Based on the Work of Charles C. Willoughby*. Eastern National).

Photographs

There are three categories of photographs related to the Hopewell Site Collection: (1) photographs of Moorehead's excavation of the site, (2) photographs of objects, and (3) photographs of exhibit cases containing Hopewell Site material. Photographs in all three of these categories are housed in photo albums in the Department of Anthropology Records Room. The albums can only be accessed and viewed in the Records Room and are under the care of the Department of Anthropology Registrar. Some of the photographs from the albums, as well as other, more recent photographs of objects and exhibits, have been scanned into the Field Museum Photo Archives Database and are available for viewing on the museum's intranet (accessible only at the museum with a staff member). The Field Museum Library's Photo Archives division maintains this database and cares for most of the photographs in it. Information about ordering reproductions of photographs can be found on the Field Museum's website (www.fieldmuseum.org) under "Research and Collections" and the sub category "Library."