



Each year, Indiana Archaeology Month features a “theme” or focus, and in 2009, the skill and artistry of Indiana’s earliest peoples will be highlighted. These past arts and crafts peoples were truly artists and created works of high skill, function, art, and beauty. Although many people are familiar with what are commonly called “arrowheads,” (archaeologists use the term “projectile points”) they may have never seen some of the outstanding examples of other types of artifacts which have been discovered right here in the Hoosier state. By highlighting the artistry of these artifacts, and the variety of types and forms, we hope to illustrate the immense creativity and skill that went into manufacturing these objects, and contribute to the understanding and appreciation of these cultures and their ancient artistry.

The poster design this year features a wonderful array of artifacts, all found in Indiana, which are thousands of years old. Some additional details are provided below. Thanks go to the following for providing information regarding the artifacts: Cheryl Ann Munson, Indiana University; Thomas C. Beard; Michele Greenan, Indiana State Museum.

Two clay faces: Over 400 pieces of stylized clay figurines such as these have been found at the Mann site (12Po2) in southwestern Indiana (Charles Lacer, personal communication; Indiana State Museum Mann Site artifact inventory). The majority, including these two examples, are made of untempered clay. The number of fragments found has led many to hypothesize that they were “mass” produced at Mann for trade. The figurines were made by overlaying layers of damp clay on a previously fired initial form, a technique verified by analyzing cross sections of breaks (Lacer 1980). Charles Lacer, the primary avocational archaeologist who worked on the Mann site, further suggests that the precision in the final, intricate incising, could only be achieved on damp, not wet or dry, clay. These figurines along with thousands of other Mann site artifacts were collected and cared for by Mr. Lacer for over 50 years and are now in the collection of the Indiana State Museum.

Although the Mann site (12Po2) was used by people much earlier, most of the attention is paid to its occupations from 150-450 A.D.) These clay figurines exemplify the artistry and character of Indiana’s prehistoric people living at the site during this time. This period in the Mann site’s history is also exemplified by the construction of numerous earthworks, and the creation of beautifully crafted objects such as copper embellished amulets, obsidian and quartz blades, and incised conch shell bowls. Such items not only attest to the artistic style of the people, but also their important position amidst a far-flung trading network that connected them to East and South Coasts, the Great Lakes, and the Rockies. Archaeological work (Peterson 2007) also revealed that the site, including immense quantities of artifacts excavated from large living areas, covered over 500 acres, making it, perhaps, the largest site in Eastern North America at its height some 1700 years ago. As a center of social, political, and

economical networking throughout the Midwest, the Mann site is virtually unparalleled, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The importance of the artwork found on these figurines is immeasurable. It gives evidence of those things about people that archaeologists rarely get to see. Many of the figurines show how they wore jewelry and what their hair and clothing styles were like. Others may indicate religious practice or perhaps social standing. We may never know the intended meanings of these figurines, but they are certainly a unique glimpse into their culture.

For more information on the Mann site:

Indiana State Museum Mann Site artifact inventory, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Kellar, James H.

1979 "The Mann Site and "Hopewell" in the Lower Wabash-Ohio Valley." In Hopewell Archaeology, The Chillicothe Conference, edited by David S. Brose and N-omi Greber, pp. 100-107. MCJA Special Paper No. 3. Kent State University Press, Kent, Ohio.

Lacer, Charles R.

1980 The Mann Site. Unpublished manuscript on file, Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Peterson, Staffan

2007 Surface Mapping and Subsurface Imaging of the Mann Archaeological Site (12-Po-2), Posey County, Indiana. Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University. Bloomington, Indiana.

Ruby, Bret J.

1993 Archaeological Investigation of Mann Phase Settlement Patterns in Southwestern Indiana. Reports of Investigations 93-18. Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University. Bloomington, Indiana.

Pipe, center: This is a grog-tempered winged serpent effigy pipe, also from the Mann site (see above). The bowl sits on a platform, which has partially broken off. The bowl is in the shape of a unique mythical creature. The sides of the bowl are clearly wings, with intricately detailed feathers wrapped around the body. The front of the bowl looks perfectly akin to a birds winged shoulders, and the back shows the wings overlapping, just as one might see a bird sitting casually on a branch. The head, however, is very much like a turtle, with a short squat head and curved beak-like nose.

Pipe, lower left: Redstone disk pipes are rare artifacts in Indiana, but found at a number of late Mississippian sites of the Caborn-Welborn culture. This pipe was found on the surface of the Hovey Lake site in Posey Co. in 1959. The engraved symbol on the side suggests a mythical snake/bird creature or the wing and tail of a "thunderbird." The three clusters of lines engraved on the top of the disk might represent features or arrows.

Fragments of artifacts made from similar fine-grained redstone have been found at other Caborn-Welborn sites and identified as catlinite. This material was possibly traded from a source area in southern Minnesota. The disk pipe form is most common among the Oneota cultures of the Upper Mississippi Valley in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois, and rare elsewhere in the Midwest except in the Caborn-Welborn culture. Trade in redstone/catlinite was part of a system of exchange of high quality materials that flourished in the Midwest around A.D. 1450-1650. It has been stated that "the highest frequency of catlinite disk pipes occurs in Wisconsin and Missouri, followed by Illinois and Iowa"

(Brown 1998:318). Catlinite disk pipes are also known from late prehistoric or protohistoric sites in Minnesota, Arkansas, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and Oklahoma.

References and for more information:

Brown, Ian W.

1989 The Calumet Ceremony in the Southeast and Its Archaeological Manifestations. American Antiquity, Vol. 54, No. 2. Pages 311-331.

Munson, Cheryl Ann, Marjorie M. Jones, Besse LaBudde, and Jocelyn C. Turner
2000 Archaeology at the Hovey Lake Village Site. 2nd edition. Historic Southern Indiana, USI Foundation, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville.

Web-sites

http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.lithiccastinglab.com/gallery-pages/catlinitepipeswagersdisc.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.lithiccastinglab.com/gallery-pages/2009julycatlinitepipespage1.htm&usq=__aXFTQNTilutZ5A0b5mN2Qdk3V1U=&h=356&w=510&sz=27&hl=en&start=5&sig2=-pY5rglHwOLTzqP7KbWtHw&um=1&tbnid=4dcOZW-MpSAkHM:&tbnh=91&tbnw=131&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dcatlinite%2Bdisk%2Bpipe%26hl%3Den%26client%3Dfirefox-a%26rls%3Dorg.mozilla:en-US:official%26sa%3DN%26um%3D1&ei=huOJSujmBpSojAe6-rWiCw

<http://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/minigalleries/moarchaeology/23SA2-STF3.shtm>

Shell triskele gorget, lower center: Marine shell gorgets like this engraved example were probably made from the wall of a conch (whelk) shell species most common on the Gulf Coast of Florida. In general, shell gorgets can be thought of as chest pieces, with the two holes indicating suspension from a cord or comparable material.

The particular ornament shown on the poster was found in Posey County, Indiana, during the rescue excavation of a heavily disturbed part of the late prehistoric Caborn-Welborn village at the Mann site.⁽¹⁾ This late Mississippian village occupies a relatively small portion of a site previously used by earlier cultures. (The Mann site is Indiana's largest prehistoric Native American site.)

The design on this gorget can be classified as a crude example of the "triskele" style, whose center of manufacture was in the area around Nashville Tennessee during the Late Mississippian period, dating after about A.D. 1400 and lasting several centuries.⁽²⁾ Classic triskele gorgets⁽³⁾ have a central three-part spiral or volute, hence "triskele," while the Mann site specimen has only two parts that comprise a simple interlocking scroll. The classic form has a scalloped border with intermittent circles placed at intervals on a dotted background between the border and the central triskele. The Mann site gorget uses the dotted background as a fill for one of the spirals and does not incorporate circles.

Outside the Nashville area, triskele style gorgets are rare but widely distributed, from North Dakota and Missouri to Virginia and central Georgia. The Mann site gorget represents one of the outliers in the distribution, and like some other outliers lacks the classic form. The outliers might be

copies of the Nashville-region gorgets made by artists not entirely familiar with the all components of the classic design.

Shell gorgets of the spider (Hovey Lake site) and mask (Murphy site) styles have been found at other sites of the Caborn-Welborn culture (A.D. 1400-1650) of southwest Indiana and adjacent states. ⁽⁴⁾

References:

- (1) Lacer, Charles R.
1980 The Mann Site. Unpublished manuscript on file, Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.
- (2) Brain, Jeffrey P., and Philip Phillips
1996 *Shell Gorgets: Styles of the Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Southeast*. Peabody Museum Press, Cambridge, Mass.
- (3) E.g., Peabody Museum collections:
<http://140.247.102.177/col/longDisplay.cfm?ObjectKey=306499>
- (4) Green, Thomas J. and Cheryl Ann Munson
1978 Mississippian Settlement Patterns in Southwestern Indiana. In *Mississippian Settlement Patterns*, edited by Bruce D. Smith, pp. 293-330. Academic, New York.
- Pollack, David
2004 *Caborn-Welborn: Constructing a New Society After the Angel Chiefdom Collapse*. University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.
- Pollack, David, and Cheryl Ann Munson
2003 The Angel to Caborn-Welborn Transition in Southwestern Indiana, Northwestern Kentucky, and Southeastern Illinois. In *Facing the Final Millennium: Studies in the late Prehistory of Indiana, A.D. 700 to 1700*, edited by Brian G. Redmond and James R. Jones III, pp. 255-286, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indianapolis.

Projectile point: This is the image of a finely made projectile point made from quartz crystal. **Bear canine,** upper center: This image is of a drilled bear canine showing drilled and plugged holes, indicating its probable intended use as an ornament. Both of these objects are from the Mt. Vernon site (12Po885), a famous and complex site in southwestern Indiana dating from the first century A.D. This site is so important that it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Reference:

“Hopewell in Mt. Vernon, a Study of the Mount Vernon Site” (12-Po-885). Copyright © 1997 General Electric Company. All rights reserved.

Pottery vessel, lower right: This Caborn-Welborn Decorated pottery jar was found in the 1870s at the well-known archaeological site of Bone Bank. It is one of a large collection of ceramic vessels and other artifacts collected from this Late Mississippian site that obtained by the National Museum of the American Indian. Portions of that collection are on exhibit in Washington D.C. and available to view on the web.⁽¹⁾

The Bone Bank site was long thought to have been eroded away. But surveys by Indiana University archaeologists in the 1990s documented that a small part of the site was still intact. Test excavations followed by rescue excavations in the last 1/10th of 1% of the site documented artifacts, ecofacts, and pit features.⁽²⁾ Stratified trash deposits buried beneath more than a meter of silt allowed archaeologists to study change over time in several aspects of the Caborn-Welborn culture.⁽³⁾

Caborn-Welborn Decorated is a style applied to a relatively small proportion of the late Mississippian pottery jars.^(4, 5) Most vessels of the Caborn-Welborn Phase are plain or undecorated.^(6, 7) The decorated jars generally have two pairs of appendages, either handles, horizontal or vertical lugs, or multiple sets of nodes. Jar form can be squat and open, or globular. The lip of the rim is sometimes decorated with notches or incised designs, but the rim itself is always plain. Sometimes a line is used around the neck of the jar to separate the rim from the shoulder. The exterior shoulder is the main field of decoration, with the characteristic design laid out as a band of triangles hanging from the neck of the jar. The actually laying-out of the design was accomplished by incising a single or multiple parallel lines (up to 8 on large jars) to create a zig-zag around the shoulder.

The spaces created by the layout lines form a band of hanging triangles and an opposed band of rising triangles. The hanging and rising triangles were alternately filled with parallel diagonal lines, nested chevrons, or punctates (many different shapes), or left plain. Looking down on the opening of the jar, one sees a circle with radiating triangles that form a “sun circle,” a motif that was used earlier at sites of the Mississippian Angel phase culture to paint the interiors of plates. Occasionally the triangles are further divided by several horizontal parallel lines, sometimes with punctates along the borders. Elements of the Caborn-Welborn Decorated design can be found to the west and south in Mississippi Valley pottery type known as Barton Incised and to the north and west in Oneota shoulder decorations, rim, and handle styles. Caborn-Welborn potters also copied other non-local pottery styles.

Several archaeologists have noticed that on Oneota decorated jars, the lines and punctates in triangles take the form of abstract representations of hawks with spotted breasts, parallel diagonal wing feathers, and triangular tails. These representations are similar to depictions of “bird-men” and “thunderbirds” found in rock art and on tablets and other artifacts. Hawk or thunderbird imagery may further symbolize cosmic forces or warfare.⁽⁸⁾

References:

- (1) <http://www.nmai.si.edu/searchcollections/results.aspx?catids=2&place=Bone+Bank &src=1-3&size=75&page=1>
- (2) Munson, Cheryl Ann
2003 *Bone Bank: Archaeological Rescue Investigations at a Late Mississippian Site, Posey County, Indiana*, by Cheryl Ann Munson. Prepared for Four Rivers Resource, Conservation, and Development Area, Inc., and Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.
- (3) http://www.indiana.edu/~archaeo/bone_bank .
- (4) Munson, Cheryl Ann, and David Pollack
1998 Caborn-Welborn Phase. In: *Archaeology of Prehistoric Native America, An Encyclopedia*, edited by G. Gibbon, pp. 99-100. Garland, New York
- (5) Pollack, David and Cheryl Ann Munson
1998 Caborn-Welborn Ceramics: Inter-site Comparisons and Extra-regional Interaction. In: *Current Archaeological Research in Kentucky, Volume 5*, edited by

Charles D. Hockensmith, Kenneth C. Carstens, Charles Stout, and Sara J. Rivers, pp. 163-202. Kentucky Heritage Council: Frankfort.

(6) Munson, Cheryl Ann

1998 *Archaeological Investigations at Caborn-Welborn Phase Sites, 1997-1998, Posey County, Indiana*, by Cheryl Ann Munson. Prepared for Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology and the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior. Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington.

(7) <http://www.indiana.edu/~archaeo/iam/iam-pots.jpg>

(8) Benn, David W.

1989 Hawks, Serpents and Bird Men: Emergence of the Oneota Mode of Production. *Plains Anthropologist* 34 (125): 233-260.

Pottery vessel, upper left: This vessel is a duck rim-effigy bowl with a unique tail representation that includes two depressions that highlight a feather pattern. The duck head faces outward as is typical and is easily recognizable as a wood duck. This Caborn-Welborn vessel is manufactured from shell tempered clay which has been fired at a relatively low temperature (~600 C). Bowls like these were used by Caborn-Welborn people about 600 to 700 years ago for serving food. The attached effigies served as handles for the bowl. What makes them so interesting is that they are not your ordinary pot handles, but carefully sculpted images of various animals, in this case, a wood duck.

The bowl came from the Bone Bank site, which was the first recorded archaeological dig in the state. Located in southwestern Indiana, the site was first discovered in the first decade of the nineteenth century by a surveyor for the U.S. land office and first excavated in 1828 by Charles Alexander Lesueur (Munson 2005). This vessel was recovered in 1937 from the surface of the riverbank after flood waters had receded, and was secured by the man who later donated it to the Indiana State Museum.

For more information on the Bone Bank site:

Munson, Cheryl Ann

2003 Bone Bank: Archaeological Rescue Investigations at a Late Mississippian Site, Posey County, Indiana. Department of Anthropology, Indiana University. Bloomington, Indiana.

2005 The Bone Bank Archaeological Project, Posey County, Indiana: Rescue Investigations at a Late Mississippian Site. http://www.indiana.edu/%7Earchaeo/bone_bank/index.htm.

Background image: The subtle background image used on the poster is from a photograph of a portion of the petroglyph (naturalistic or symbolic representations or depictions carved into stone) images at the Roll Site (12Cr175) in Crawford County. Aboriginal petroglyphs are rare thus far in Indiana, and this site represents the first verified aboriginal petroglyph site verified in the state. As stated in Cochran and Wepler (1988:2), “the glyphs recorded at the Roll site are of the Woodland Pit-and-Groove style most commonly found in the Tennessee Valley area of the Southeast, although the style also occurs at petroglyph sites in the Midwest.”

Reference:

Cochran, Donald R. and William Wepler

1988 The Roll Site (12-Cr-175): An Aboriginal Petroglyph in Crawford County, Indiana. Ball State University, Muncie, IN and the Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis, IN.

The 2009 poster design is by Nicole D. Arb. Printed by PEN Products – www.penproducts.com

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Center image and two clay face images: courtesy of Thomas C. Beard. Artifacts from the collection of Charles Lacer.

Pipe image, lower left and shell gorget image (lower center): courtesy of Cheryl Ann Munson, Indiana University. From the documented collection of Charles Lacer. Notes and photos by Cheryl Ann Munson, Indiana University.

Projectile point and drilled bear canine images: From a companion color CD of the images in the book titled “Hopewell in Mt. Vernon, a Study of the Mount Vernon Site” (12-Po-885). Copyright © 1997 General Electric Company. All rights reserved.

Pottery vessel image, lower right: courtesy of Cheryl Ann Munson, Indiana University. Courtesy National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution (055869.00).

Pottery vessel image, upper left: courtesy of the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites.

Petroglyph background image: courtesy of the United States Department of Agriculture, Hoosier National Forest.

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