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The Wesleyan University Collection of
Antiquities from Tennessee

By

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INTRODUCTION

ARCHEOLOGICALLY as well as geographically Tennessee is a part of the great Mississippi basin. It is intimately bound to Alabama on the south and to Kentucky on the north by two large rivers, and by lesser streams to Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Mississippi. The chief river is the Tennessee. Just below Chattanooga it almost reaches the northern boundary of Georgia, but makes instead a sudden turn to the north, forming Moccasin bend. Immediately to the north of the Moccasin's heel and some five miles by water below Chattanooga is a large island in the river called Williams island, a spindle-shaped piece of land about two miles long by more than half a mile wide. It belongs to the Hampton estate. The collection in question is said to have come almost wholly from this island and largely from a single mound.

The collection was bought for Wesleyan University by Mr A. R. Crittenden of Middletown, Connecticut, while on a trip to a Grand Army Encampment at Louisville, Kentucky, followed by excursions in Georgia and Tennessee to the battlefields of Chickamauga, Lookout mountain, and Missionary ridge, in September, 1895. Going up Missionary ridge on a newly-made road, Mr Crittenden discovered an arrowhead and a spearhead that had been turned out by the workmen. This led to inquiries which finally brought him in contact with Mr George D. Barnes of Chattanooga, from whom the collection of several thousand specimens was purchased.

After Mr Crittenden's return to Middletown, the late Mr S. Ward Loper, then curator of the Wesleyan University Museum, was sent to Chattanooga to pack the specimens and to obtain all the information possible concerning the collection. While there, Mr Loper assisted Mr Barnes in opening a mound not far from Chattanooga.

On a recent visit to the Wesleyan University Museum my attention was immediately attracted by these specimens from Tennessee, especially the fine shell gorgets. From Professor William North Rice, the present head of the museum, I learned that both George D. Barnes, the collector, and S. Ward Loper, who catalogued the collection, were dead; but that Mr Crittenden was still living and might be able to supplement the somewhat meager information contained in the catalogue. Mr Crittenden was seen and kindly told all he could remember concerning his interviews with Mr Barnes.

The scientific value of memory pictures now twenty years old is open to question; as these are all we have in the way of adding a personal touch to the story, they follow in the next two paragraphs. I also learned from Mr Crittenden that after the receipt of the collection at Middletown, a portion of it

was sold to Mr James C. Briggs, of New Bedford, for the Natural History Society of Marion, Mass. Most of the accompanying illustrations however are from the Wesleyan collection. The present study was facilitated in every possible way by the authorities not only of the Wesleyan University Museum but also of the Marion Natural History Society. To them, especially to Professor Rice and Messrs Crittenden and Briggs, my special thanks are due.

The farmer in charge of Williams island intended to level the mound for the purpose of making the land easier to cultivate. On beginning his operations he turned out some skeletons and pottery. These finds attracted the attention of Mr Barnes, who obtained permission to open the mound and explore it for relics. Mr Barnes opened a trench to the center of the mound, where he found a skeleton in a horizontal position, probably on the original land surface. With the skeleton were pottery and implements. He did not preserve this or other skeletons. Probably one of the rarer shell gorgets was also found with this central skeleton.



FIG. 1.—FLINT ARROWHEAD, ONE OF FOURTEEN AT THE HIP OF THE CENTRAL SKELETON. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. CRITTENDEN COLLECTION. (1)

At some distance from the center, and especially about the margin of the mound, were found many other burials. The burials near the margin of the mound were in a sitting posture, and "with them were stone implements of the stone-grave type as well as those of the mound type. With the central skeleton were only mound-type implements, all of fine workmanship." No iron was found in the mound. Under the hip-bones of the central skeleton were the remains of a bag, apparently, rawhide or deerskin, containing fourteen arrowheads of flint, all of delicate workmanship, and all of the same shape with a square base and sloping to a slender point (fig. 1). With the skeleton was also found a fine polished celt or tomahawk. The celt had been buried with its wooden handle, remains of which were distinctly visible. The handle was more than two feet in length, practically straight, and so

completely decayed that no attempt was made to preserve it; but Mr Barnes made a wooden model. The original stone tomahawk and the reconstructed handle are reproduced in figure 2.



FIG. 2.—STONE AX FOUND WITH THE CENTRAL SKELETON. HANDLE IS A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. CRITTENDEN COLLECTION. (1)

These two specimens and two pots (pl. 1) from the same mound, one of which when found was filled with charred corn (fig. *b*), are in the private



a



b

CLAY VESSELS. THE LOWER ONE (*b*) WAS FILLED WITH CHARRED CORN WHEN FOUND. CRITTENDEN COLLECTION. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

collection of Mr Crittenden. Nothing of European origin was found near the center of the mound; the presence however of European beads was noted near its periphery. Certain specimens are referred to as having come simply from graves on the island; while others are apparently Williams island surface finds.

The exact location of the mound excavated by Barnes was not known to Mr Crittenden. It might have been the spot just described by Mr Clarence B. Moore¹ as follows: "Its principal aboriginal site is about half way down the island on the eastern side, bordering the water, and is a small field of rich dark soil having some aboriginal debris scattered over the surface. In this field near the water's edge, was a slight elevation, in which we were told the principal digging had been done by those who had visited Williams island in search of relics." Eight trial holes were sunk by Mr Moore to the undisturbed sandy soil without encountering other than fragmentary human remains; except for a burial in the subsoil, at a depth of 5 feet 2 inches, containing a partly flexed skeleton with a rude flint knife near the skull. In another low rise of ground a short distance south of the first, he found ten burials. In one of these, near the hip-bone of the skeleton, were two stone knives, a shell ear-plug, a small shell disc, a few perforated *Marginella* shells, two bone beads, and two tubular copper beads—an assemblage suggesting the use of a containing bag, similar to the one found by Barnes and noted above.

Mr J. B. Nicklin, of Chattanooga, has a collection from Williams island, including beautiful pearl beads, a large ceremonial stone tube, a copper celt, and a boat-shaped amulet of stone.

Beyond what has already been said there is no positive information as to the association of the various objects. Mr Crittenden believes, and Mr Loper's installation would seem to bear him out in this, that certain shell gorgets were associated with strings of beads. Moore has found such association in other Southern mounds. A small shell gorget (fig. 3) is supposed to have been found with a long string of beads reproduced in plate II. In like manner a small string of beads composed of some three dozen *Marginella* shells (fig. 4) accompanied a shell gorget (see fig. 11).



FIG. 3.—SHELL GORGET OR PENDANT SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN FOUND WITH THE STRING OF BEADS SHOWN IN PLATE II. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1628. (‡)



FIG. 4.—BEAD, ONE OF ABOUT THREE DOZEN MADE FROM *Marginella* SHELLS. FOUND WITH A SHELL GORGET (SEE FIG. 11). WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1617. (‡)

¹ Aboriginal Sites on Tennessee River, *Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, xvi, 1915, p. 354.

SHELL

Among art objects in shell, the gorgets easily take precedence. In addition to their symbolic importance, some are veritable works of art. The comprehensive work on "Art in Shell of the Ancient Americans," by Professor W. H. Holmes,¹ including a discussion of shell gorgets, is well known. A number of short papers by other authors have since appeared. At the Eighteenth International Congress of Americanists (London, 1912), I read a paper on Shell Gorgets from Missouri, that was subsequently published in the *American Anthropologist*.² The Wesleyan University collection includes some notable examples, especially rattlesnake gorgets and so-called "scalped shell discs". In fact more gorgets of these two types have been found in Tennessee than in any other state. The few of both types not credited to Tennessee are from the region of which Tennessee is the center, namely, Georgia, Alabama, and Kentucky.

Professor Jeffries Wyman³ was the first to identify the rattlesnake on shell gorgets. Later in his discussion of the subject, Holmes⁴ applied the name to a large class of shell gorgets. He did not, however, seem to note the kinship between these and others, to which he gave the name "scalped shell discs" and which he placed in a separate class. Later I shall endeavor to prove that the scalped discs are simply highly conventionalized rattlesnake gorgets, a conclusion that would seem to find support in their intimate geographic association just referred to. Wyman's identification was confined to the realistic rattlesnake representations.

One of the finest and best preserved of the rattlesnake gorgets is reproduced in plate III. It is the type with which Wyman was familiar: a broad plain peripheral zone, then a narrow band bounded by two parallel incised lines, within which is the figure of the rattlesnake. The two holes for suspension are in line with this narrow band. The disposition of the snake is the usual one: a profile with the jaws to the right. These with the head and neck occupy the center of the field. The continuity of head and body is broken below at the inclosing band, while the body describes approximately a circle placed contra clockwise. This brings the rattle against the back of the neck. The body has a segmented appearance, composed as it is of four elongate cross-hatched fields alternating with four concentric circles, the latter similar to the representation for the eye.

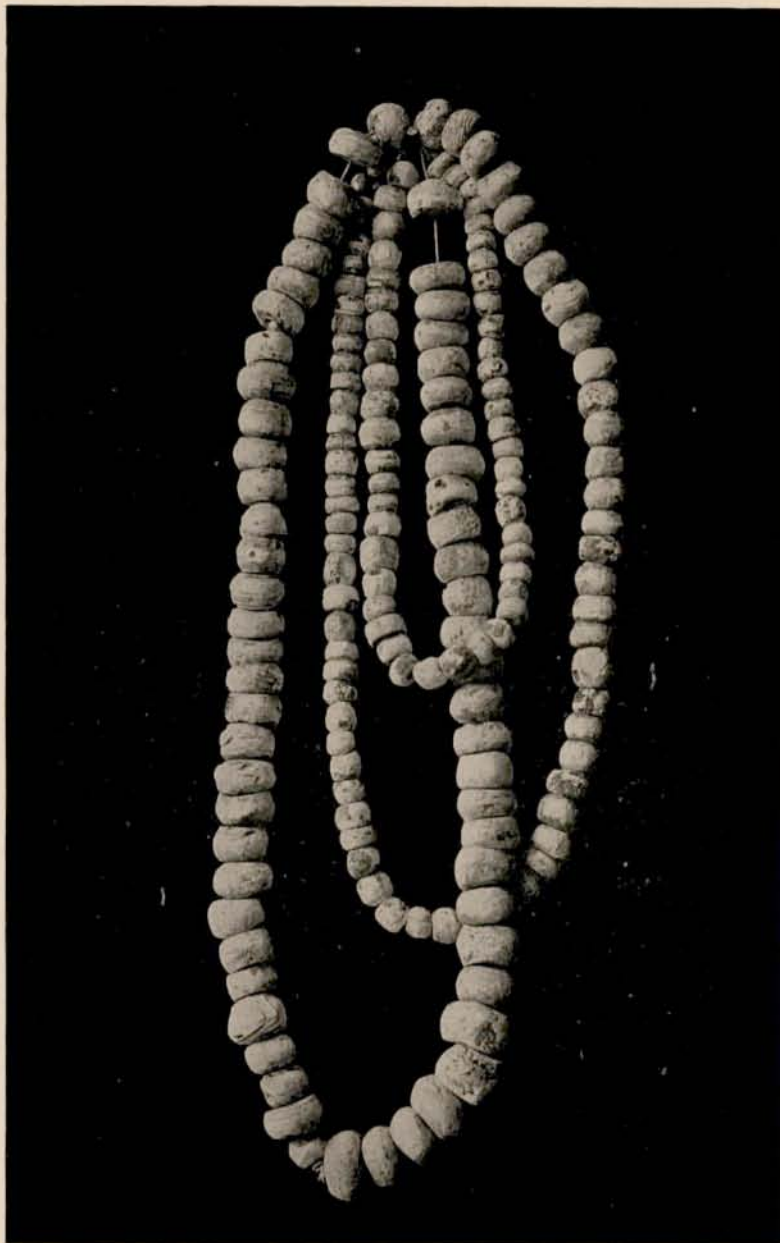
In the present instance however spirals take the place of concentric circles, forming, so far as I am aware, a unique exception to the rule. The cross-hatched link between the two perforations is usually shorter than the others, and rectangular in shape; it is sometimes further embellished by rows of dots. Another narrow band similar to the outer encircling band marks everywhere the width of the snake's body and ends at the tip of the tail. The markings of the latter are nearly always chevrons, rarely lines running in a single direction. Within the space marked off by the single coil of the snake's body are two areas that come in for decorative treatment. The area between the forehead and the

¹ *Second Ann. Rep. Bur. Amer. Ethnol.*

² Vol. xv, no. 3, July-Sept. 1913.

³ *Fifth Ann. Rep. Peabody Mus. of Amer. Archaeol. and Ethnol.*, 1872.

⁴ *Op. cit.*



SHELL BEADS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN FOUND WITH A SMALL SHELL GORGET
(SEE FIG. 3). MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO.
1628. (1)



RATTLESNAKE GORGET SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN FOUND ON THE CHEST OF THE CENTRAL SKELETON. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1617. (4)

upper jaw is filled in by a series of recurved plumes that appear to grow out of the upper jaw. The space beneath the lower jaw is marked by varied patterns in keeping with the general decorative scheme. Sometimes these two areas and the space between the jaws are each marked by a curving elongate perforation, which three taken together form a sort of openwork whorl. Both jaws are armed with teeth. This gorget is supposed to have been found on the breast of the central skeleton in the mound and in association with the string of beads shown in plate IV.

The same ideas are carried out in a somewhat larger shell gorget (pl. v), and with a bold though cruder execution. There are no spirals. The cross-hatched rectangular portion of the body between the two perforations is set off by a row of dots at each end, and the field is not cut away between these and the adjoining concentric circles. This is true also of the concentric circle nearest the neck. A fine shell gorget of this type fell to the lot of the Marion Natural History Society (fig. 5). Another, also



FIG. 5.—RATTLESNAKE GORGET. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. COLLECTION OF MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. (1)

from Williams island, is now in the United States National Museum and was reproduced by Holmes in his work previously cited. In figure 6 most of the single body coil has weathered away, the eye is not differentiated, and the open



FIG. 6.—RATTLESNAKE GORGET. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION. NO. 1615. (1)



FIG. 7.—RATTLESNAKE GORGET. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1628. (1)

mouth is represented by a slit which is repeated once above and once below the jaws. The mouth, eye, and the holes for suspension are practically all that can be distinguished in figure 7.

A type for which Professor Holmes created a class, the so-called scalloped shell disc, is well represented in figure 8. This is simply a conventional rendering, with variations, of

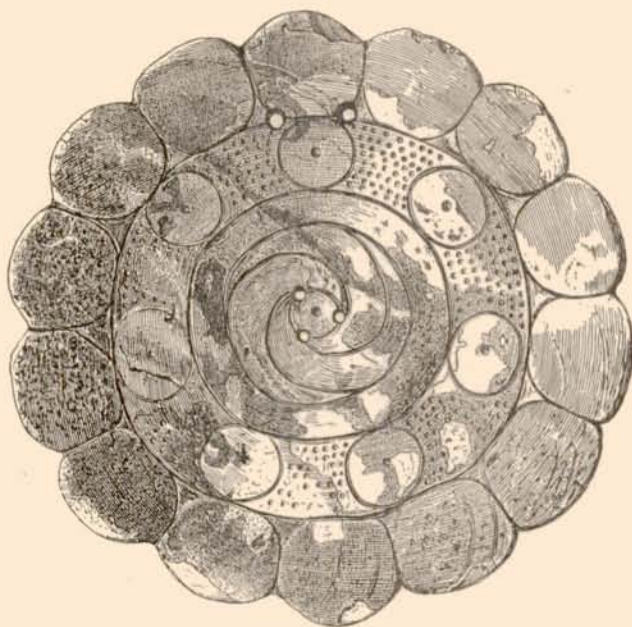
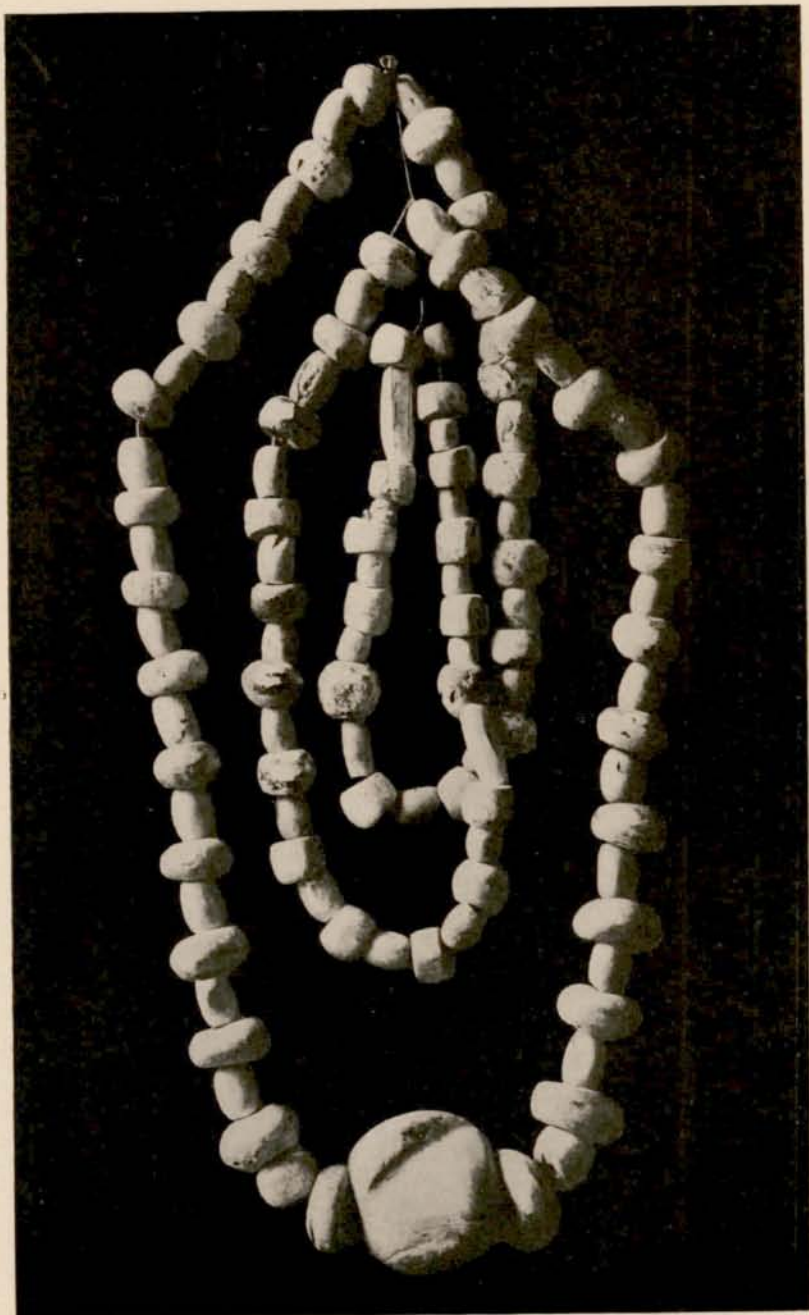


FIG. 8.—SCALLOPED SHELL DISC, A CONVENTIONALIZED TYPE OF THE RATTLESNAKE GORGET. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1617. (1)

the realistic rattlesnake gorget (pls. III, v). The dotted circle in the center is the eye; the whorl of three incised lines leading from the central circle takes the place either of the neck and two jaws or the three elongate perforations that sometimes occur above the upper jaw, in the mouth, and below the lower jaw respectively. In two scalloped discs figured by Joseph Jones and W.H. Holmes, these incised lines are actually cut through the shell, after the manner of so many of the realistic rattlesnake gorgets. Outside the zone of the central whorl is a comparatively narrow plain band. Then comes a broad band representing the snake's body, with its dotted circles alternating with punctate areas—the latter are generally cross-hatched in the other type of rattlesnake gorget. Finally, instead of a plain peripheral band there is the scalloped band on which Holmes based his classification. To compensate for his conventional handling of the inner field, the artist simply bestowed a little more pains on the periphery. A gorget from Nashville, Tennessee, almost the exact counterpart of this one, was reproduced by Holmes.¹ Another, also from Williams island, somewhat larger but without the triple perforation near the center, belongs to the Department of Archæology at Andover, Massachusetts.

A somewhat smaller gorget of this class is in the Marion collection (fig. 9). The only feature lacking is the narrow band just outside the central whorl. In figure 10 this band and the body coil are both wanting. It should be noted that in realistic rattlesnake gorgets a large majority of the figures are oriented in such manner as to make the serpent face to the right. In an equally large proportion of scalloped discs the central whorl representing the snake's head is oriented in the same way. In each case one class was probably the work of

¹Op. cit., pl. LIV.



SHELL BEADS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH A SHELL GORGET (SEE PL. III). MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1617. ($\frac{1}{2}$)



FIG. 9.—SCALLOPED TYPE OF THE RATTLESNAKE GORGET. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. COLLECTION OF MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. (1)

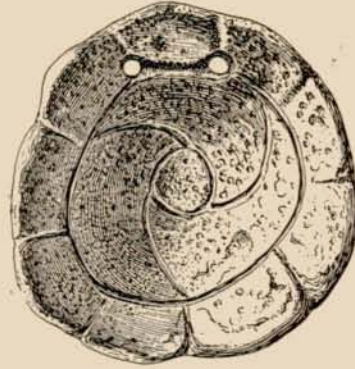


FIG. 10.—SCALLOPED TYPE OF THE RATTLESNAKE GORGET. WILLIAMS ISLAND. COLLECTION OF THE MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. (1)

right-handed artists, and the other that of left-handed artists. Figure 11 is an exception to the rule. The central whorl represents a snake's head facing to the left instead of the right, and there are four incised lines instead of three. Each pitted node in the body coil has the appearance of being a fusion of two nodes, as each is oblong and incloses two dots.

A specimen which serves still further to link the scalloped discs to the rattlesnake gorgets is reproduced in figure 12. The eye is present, but there



FIG. 11.—SCALLOPED TYPE OF THE RATTLESNAKE GORGET. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1617. (1)



FIG. 12.—SCALLOPED TYPE OF THE RATTLESNAKE GORGET SHOWING A DOUBLE COIL OF THE SERPENT'S BODY. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1615. (1)

is no whorl of incised lines. On the other hand, the inner narrow band has been broadened, and even ornamented with chevrons, the usual markings for the body among the rattlesnake gorgets in which open-work plays an important rôle, and especially for the tail. The next zone, that of the body coil proper, is decorated with a combination of chevrons and dotted areas, leaving not the slightest doubt as to the intention of the artist. Besides the direction of the

chevrons is the one that prevails among realistic rattlesnake gorgets. One can thus predict the direction the incised lines would have taken had they been present. They would have made the snake face to the right. The periphery consists of the weathered but unmistakable chain of discs. The significance of the designs (both realistic and conventional) on these rattlesnake gorgets is discussed in my paper on "Some Mounds of Eastern Tennessee," in this volume.

Figure 13 is a good example of a variety of gorgets composing the class that represent the human form. The latter is circumscribed by a narrow band-

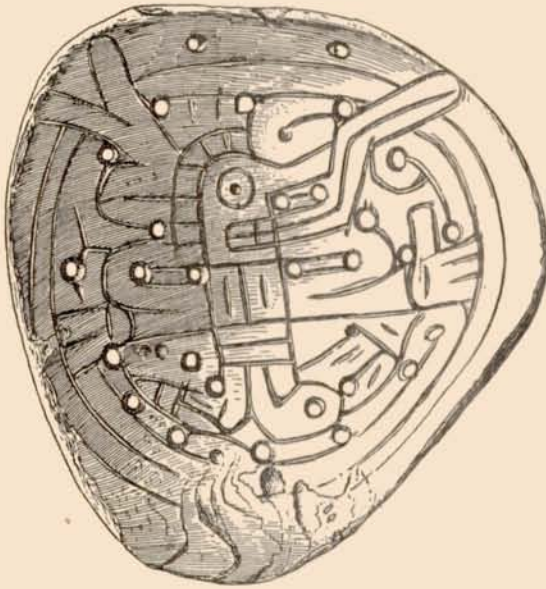


FIG. 13.—SHELL GORGET REPRESENTING THE HUMAN FORM. MOUND ON HIWASSEE RIVER, NEAR CHARLESTON. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1614. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

like inclosure, the limits of which are overstepped at two points—by a portion of the head-dress on the left, and on the right by something that proceeds from the mouth. The head is in profile, while the body and arms are seen from the front. The elbows are pressed against the sides. The fore-arms and hands extend horizontally till the fingers touch the inclosing band on opposite sides. The thumbs are held in a vertical position. Below the waistband the figure is less intelligible. Hanging from the waistband in the center is something that might be intended for an apron or loin-cloth. The legs are flexed in such manner as to bring the weight of the body on the right knee and toe and the left foot. Both feet disappear beneath other parts of the design. The right ankle is cross-banded, and the thighs and calves are each marked by a longitudinal incised line. Within the field covered by the designs are twenty-seven perforations and four small shallow pits (in addition to the one representing the eye). Some of the perforations are paired; others are placed without apparent order, and bilateral symmetry does not enter into the series as a whole. This specimen is from a mound on Hiwassee river, near Charleston. Two gorgets similar to this one, both from Tennessee, were figured by Holmes.

The collection includes several mask-like shell ornaments, the largest of which is reproduced in figure 14. The design is on the convex outer surface of the shell. By a combination of perforations, incised lines, and low relief, the features are brought out. The decoration along the margin at the top probably represents the hair. This mask is even more than large enough to cover the face of an adult. A much smaller shell mask (fig. 15) might well have been used as a gorget, since the holes representing the eyes could be made to serve for purposes of suspension.

like inclosure, the limits of which are overstepped at two points—by a portion of the head-dress on the left, and on the right by something that proceeds from the mouth. The head is in profile, while the body and arms are seen from the front. The elbows are pressed against the sides. The fore-arms and hands extend horizontally till the fingers touch the inclosing band on opposite sides. The thumbs are held in a vertical position. Below the waistband the figure is less intelligible. Hanging from the waistband in the center is something that might be intended for an apron or loin-cloth. The legs are flexed in such manner as to bring the weight of the body on the right knee and toe and the



RATTLESNAKE GORGET. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1617. (‡)

Among shell specimens the collection is rich in objects resembling squarish buttons (fig. 16). These do not vary much in size and shape. The decorated side is from the inner surface of the shell. The two holes for fastening or suspension occupy a diamond-shaped field with truncated corners. At each of the four sides of the diamond is a prominent node, the center of which is generally marked by a small shallow pit. In a burial urn from the grave of an infant at Durand's bend, Dallas county, Alabama, Mr Clarence B. Moore found forty-four of these curious shell ornaments near the neck of the child, as if they might have formed a sort of necklace or been attached to some garment. They are smaller in size than those in figure 16. A few shell ornaments of the same type were also found by Mr Moore



FIG. 14.—SHELL MASK. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1615. (1)

in a mound on the Charlotte Thompson place in Montgomery county, about six miles below Montgomery.¹ In reviewing Mr Moore's paper, the Marquis de Nadaillac remarked that of the many ornaments from the mounds which had passed through his hands, none resembled these button-shaped shell ornaments.²

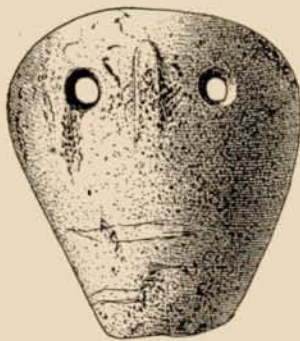


FIG. 15.—SHELL MASK OR GORGET. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1615. (1)

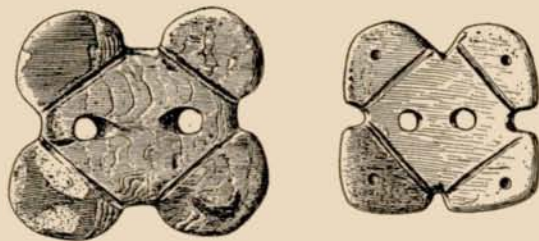


FIG. 16.—BUTTON-SHAPED SHELL ORNAMENTS. FRENCHÉ'S ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1630. (1)

Of shell pins there are two varieties. The more common form is made from the columella of some large univalve (fig. 17). Remains of the natural spiral

¹ *Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 1899.

² *L'Anthropologie*, xi, 83, 1900.

groove are nearly always seen on the head of the pin. This groove is sometimes traceable for nearly the whole length of the shaft. In the specimen figured how-



FIG. 17.—SHELL PIN. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1620. ($\frac{1}{2}$)



FIG. 18.—SHELL PIN. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1622. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

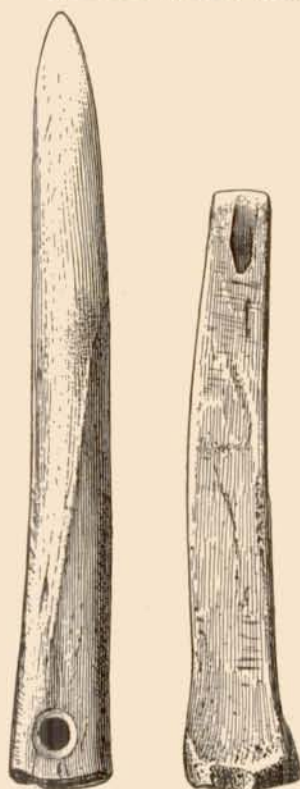
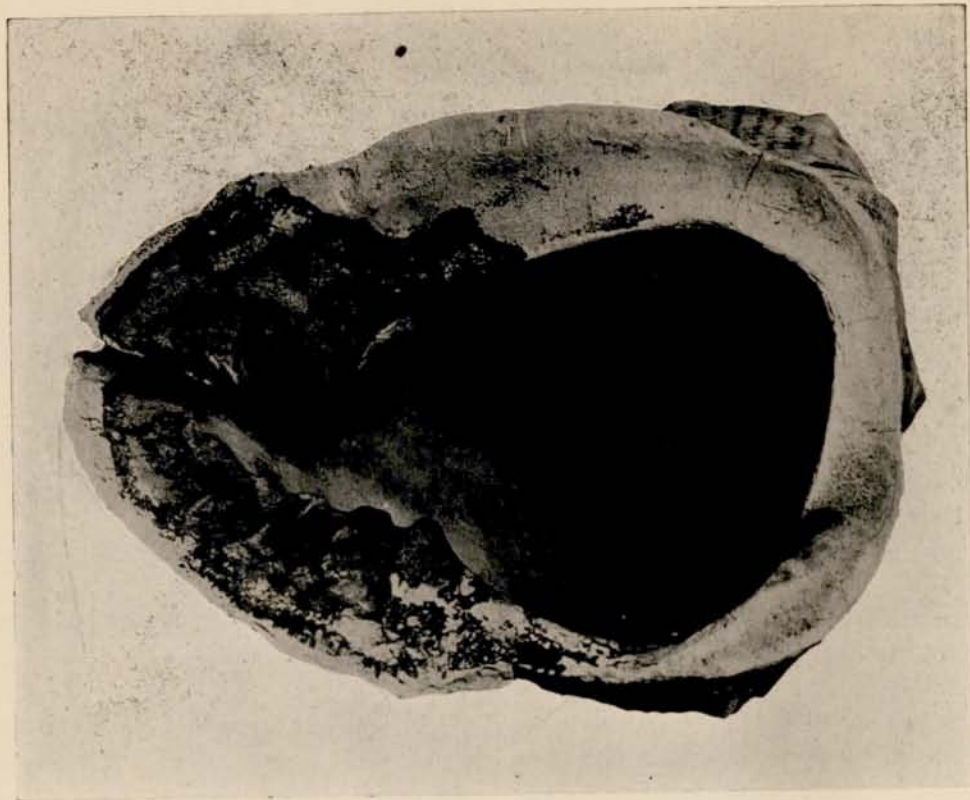


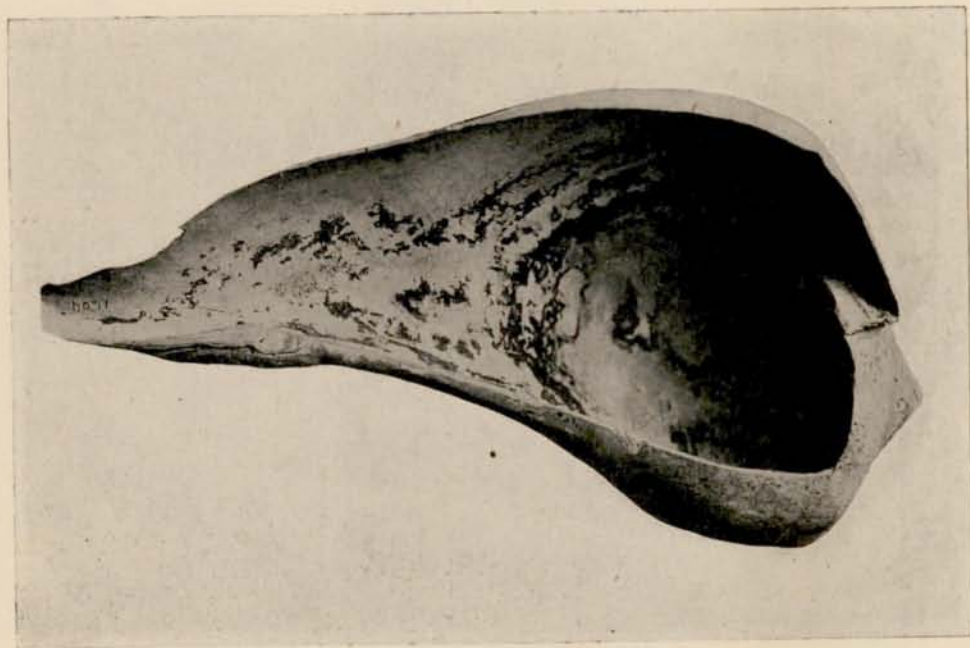
FIG. 19.—BONE FLESHING TOOLS. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1623. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

ever it shows only on the head, being entirely removed from the shaft, which is perfectly cylindrical. The longest pin of this type in the collection measures 15.5 cm. The other type of pin has a comparatively short flattened curving shaft sometimes perforated transversely near the point (fig. 18). The shaft meets a large flat mushroom-like head at a right-angle, not however at its center but near the margin; the margin at the union between shaft and head represents a bit of the suture line of the shell. The head is cut from the outer and the shaft from the inner portion of the shell.

The early inhabitants of the Mississippi valley made frequent use of shells for vessels; these might have antedated clay vessels. At all events certain clay vessels are modeled so as to be fairly faithful representations of shells. Half of a bivalve shell is a ready-made vessel. With univalves it was desirable to remove the columella and the interior structure surrounding the same, as well as the inner lip or labium. Through this method of improvising, a large univalve could be converted into a vessel not only capacious but also light and non-breakable. The Wesleyan collection includes two of this kind (pl. vi). Figure *a* is an unusually large example of *Cassis cameo* from near Chattanooga. The



a



b

VESSELS OF SHELL. a, *Cassis cameo*, FROM NEAR CHATTANOOGA; b, *Fulgur perversum*, FROM MOCCASIN BEND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NOS. 1603 AND 1604. ($\frac{1}{2}$ AND $\frac{1}{3}$)

vessel reproduced in figure *b* is improvised from the shell of *Fulgur perversum*. It was found on the Latner farm, Moccasin bend, in 1895, by Joe Wright. In the same grave were 500 beads, a small clay pot, and two small shells. The shells of both *Cassis cameo* and *Fulgur perversum*, dating from Tertiary times, occur as far north as Cape Hatteras. Whether the Indians made use of the fossil shells or confined themselves wholly to recent ones is not known. In figure *b* the rugosities on the exterior have all been removed.

BONE

Among bone implements the pointed and spatulate types predominate (fig. 19). In some cases the condylar portion of the bone forms the base of the implement; in others the projecting part of the heel-bone is left intact, thus making



FIG. 20.—BONE IMPLEMENT. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1623. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

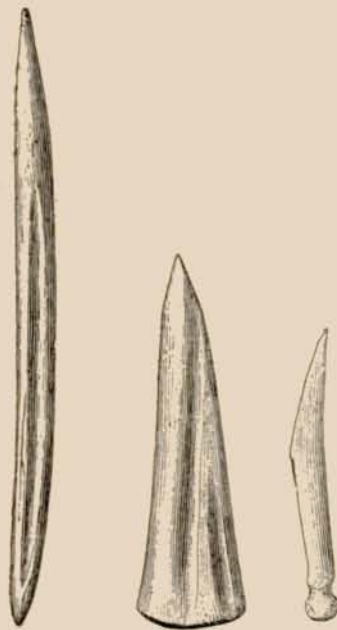


FIG. 21.—BONE BODKINS. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1623. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

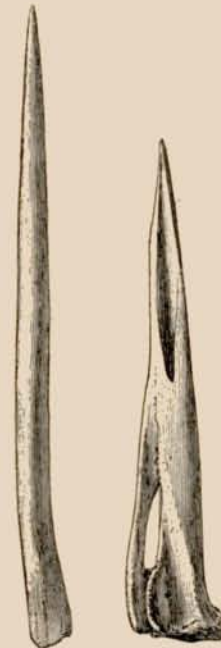


FIG. 22.—BONE BODKINS. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1623. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

an admirable handhold (fig. 20). Some of the bodkins are pointed at both ends (fig. 21). Among spatulæ the condylar portion of the bone is often removed, leaving a square-cut base, near which is a perforation passing through only one wall of the bone.

STONE

The builders of the mound on Williams island were expert in the art of chipping and otherwise shaping objects of stone. The arrowheads, mostly of flint, cover a wide range both in shape and in size (fig. 23). Those with serrated margins might also have served as saws. The drills are well represented in figure 24. The duckbill scraper is a common form (fig. 25). Some of the best examples of chipping are to be seen in the leaf-shaped poniards or knives (figs. 26,

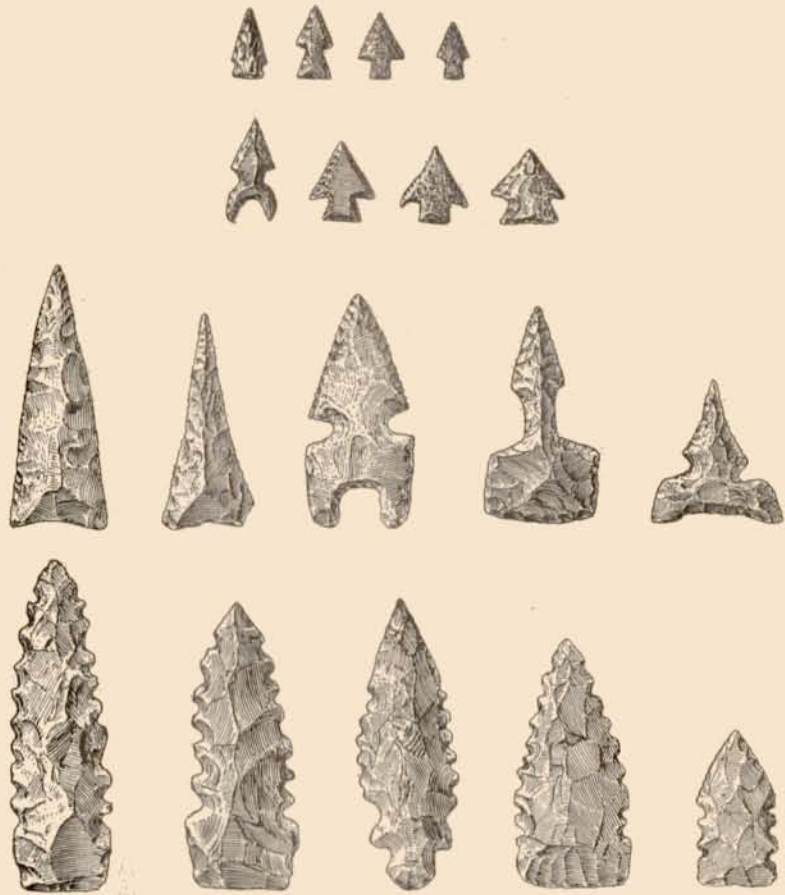


FIG. 23.—FLINT ARROWHEADS. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION. (1)

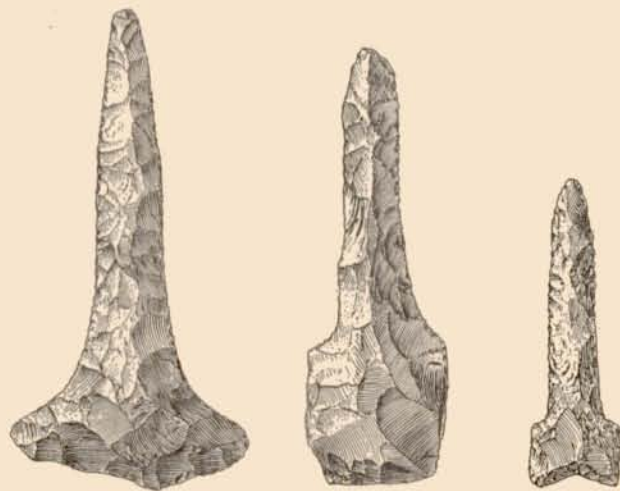


FIG. 24.—FLINT DRILLS. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1510. (1)

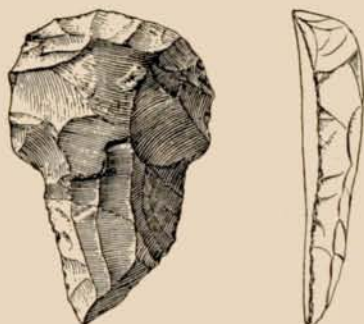


FIG. 25.—DUCKBILL SCRAPER OF FLINT. WILLIAMS ISLAND. COLLECTION OF MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. (†)



FIG. 27.—FLINT KNIFE. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1497. (‡)



FIG. 26.—FLINT PONIARD. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1497. (‡)

27). The polished stone tools were made chiefly of hornstone and greenstone. An adz, a so-called celt, and a chisel are reproduced in figures 28-30.

The archeologist is constantly encountering forms that defy classification. These sometimes take on utilitarian shapes, as for example the "spud" resembling in form a hoe (fig. 31). The edge is crescent-shaped and fairly sharp, although it does not appear to have been used for cutting purposes. The material is porphyry. That the perforation near the base of the shank served for the passage of a thong in the process of hafting is demonstrated by Mr C. B. Moore's discoveries in Southern mounds.¹ Mr Moore was also fortunate enough to find at Moundville, Alabama, a shell pendant representing in one piece the handle and blade of this particular type of ceremonial ax. Here the method of passing the thong through the hole and about the handle and projecting shank is distinctly indicated.²

The small celt-shaped pendant seen in figure 32 belongs to the series that was sold to the Natural History Society of Marion, Massachusetts. The specimen

¹ *Amer. Anthropologist*, n.s., v, 1908, p. 498.

² Moundville Revisited, *Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, XIII, 1907, fig. 99.

reproduced in figure 33 evidently belongs to the class of gorgets. In addition to the double constriction of the body and the pointed ends, two pits, one near each perforation, should be noted. The opposite side is plain. The two specimens shown in figures 34 and 35 are from the vicinity of Chattanooga, although not from Williams island. The larger is a gorget with an enigmatical incised pattern on one side; the other is a tally-stone intended to be carried as a pendant. Both are softer than steel. In figure 36 is represented a roughly rectangular slab of stone resembling a celt but



FIG. 28.—ADZ OF HARD DARK-GREEN STONE. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1378. (½)



FIG. 29.—AX OF GREENSTONE. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1390. (½)



FIG. 30.—STONE CHISEL. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1390. (½)

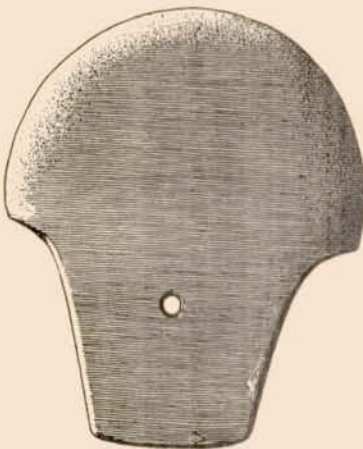


FIG. 31.—CEREMONIAL AX. MOUND ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1571. (½)



FIG. 32.—CELT-SHAPED STONE PENDANT. WILLIAMS ISLAND. COLLECTION OF MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. (½)

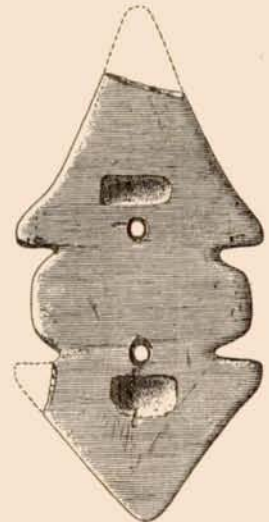


FIG. 33.—STONE GORGET. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1521. (½)

without an edge. One side is hollowed out through use as a chopping block, polishing stone, or palette. This and the diamond-shaped piece of red ochre reproduced in figure 37 might have belonged to the same outfit.

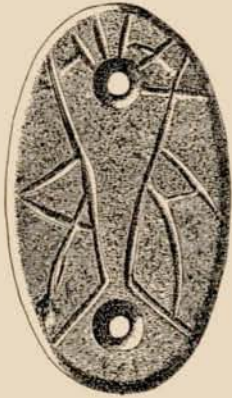


FIG. 34.—STONE GORGET. VICINITY OF CHATTANOOGA. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1520. (‡)



FIG. 35.—TALLY-STONE OR PENDANT. VICINITY OF CHATTANOOGA. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1520. (‡)



FIG. 36.—STONE PALETTE. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1390. (‡)

To one rather small class of problematical forms has been given the name "boat amulet", because a majority of these stones resemble in shape a ship's bottom and are hollowed out. The specimen reproduced in figure 38 is a variant, although the prow and stern are not pointed. The two perforations are placed nearer the center than usual, and the groove between the two holes is in a transverse instead of a longitudinal ridge. One end of the amulet is unfortunately missing; the other is marked by two incised figures, the significance of which can only be surmised. The boat amulet occurs sparingly east of the Mississippi and in Canada. Only one has thus far been reported from Connecticut, a splendid and typical specimen found forty years ago at Silver Lane, near Hartford, by a son of John Foley.

The region about Chattanooga is noted for the relative abundance of stone discs found there. These vary much with respect to size and the material employed. Some are concave on both sides, and some have plain sides. The one reproduced in figure 39 belongs to the latter class. They probably served a variety of uses. Those of medium size, "two fingers broad at the edge, and two

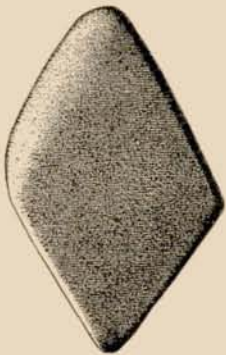


FIG. 37.—RED OCHRE. WILLIAMS ISLAND. COLLECTION MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. (‡)



FIG. 38.—STONE AMULET. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1562. (‡)



FIG. 39.—STONE DISC OF CHALCEDONY. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1532. (‡)

spans round", might well have been used in the game of *chungke*. That this was a favorite game among the Southern Indians is vouched for by early historians. Certain ancient shell gorgets¹ from Missouri and Kentucky represent the player in the act of throwing the chungke stone. Among the Plains Indians the present game of *itséwah* is the old chungke game under another name. In the Wesleyan collection are a number of fine stone cylinders, of which one from Watkin's island, Hamilton county, near Chattanooga, is shown in plate VII (fig. *a*). It has a diameter of 13 cm. and is pitted at the ends. The large pitted stone (pl. VII, fig. *b*) is also from the vicinity of Chattanooga.

POTTERY

While the pottery of Tennessee belongs to the Middle Mississippi Valley group, there are certain forms that to my knowledge are not found elsewhere. I refer to the elongate boat-shaped vessels with one vertical loop handle at the prow and the other at the stern, and generally with series of nodes as relief decorations. One such from Big Toco mound, eastern Tennessee, was figured by Thomas.² In a recent paper Mr Moore³ also has reproduced several from the Tennessee river in Alabama. Typical examples are seen in plate VIII. The nodes are arranged in linear groups, not only on the body of the vessels but also on the inner margin of the lips at each end near the handles.

In figure *a* the beaks, both fore and aft, are unusually high and long. Both these vessels are from graves on Williams island. The nodes are omitted in some vessels of this type.

Bowls either with or without handles predominate. Some of these are ornamented with tastefully executed incised patterns, frequently on relief as well as plain surfaces (pl. IX). The largest of this class, a plain bowl without handles, has a maximum diameter of 48 cm. (pl. X, fig. *b*). The smallest pottery vessel is a crude little cup with rudimentary handle and a capacity of less than a table-



FIG. 40.—DIMINUTIVE CLAY VESSEL. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1566. (1/3)



FIG. 41.—RIM ORNAMENT FOR A CLAY VESSEL. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1566. (1/3)



FIG. 42.—RIM ORNAMENT FOR A CLAY VESSEL. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1566. (1/3)

¹ *Amer. Anthropologist*, N.S., XV, July-Sept. 1913, figs. 70, 71.

² *Twelfth Annual Rep. Bur. Amer. Ethnol.*, p. 384.

³ *Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, XVI, 1915.



a



b

a, STONE CYLINDER FROM WATKINS ISLAND NEAR CHATTANOOGA. *b*, PITTED STONE FROM [NEAR CHATTANOOGA. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NOS. 1585 AND 1602. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

spoon (fig. 40). The use of animal and human heads as relief features was a favorite method of ceramic embellishment. These either rose from the rim or were attached to the sides of the vessel (figs. 41 and 42).

PIPES

In respect to the material used the series of pipes is fairly evenly divided between stone and clay. They are of medium size, but include a variety of forms. Most of them belong to the class to which McGuire gave the name "Southern

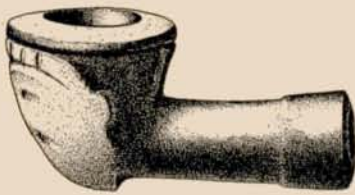


FIG. 43.—STONE PIPE WITH HUMAN EFFIGY BOWL, FROM A GRAVE ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1559. ($\frac{1}{2}$)



FIG. 44.—SOAPSTONE PIPE. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1560. ($\frac{3}{4}$)

mound pipes". The largest is only 8.5 cm. long (fig. 43); it has a swelling at the termination of the stem. The bowl, which is spreading at the top, is intended to represent a human head. The features are barely suggested. The incised lines above the low forehead, comparable with the lines at the top of shell masks (see fig. 14), indicate the hair, and more of the coiffure is represented by the relief bar at the back of the head. The only stone effigy pipe is evidently meant for a duck (fig. 44). The material is soapstone.

Two of the stone pipes are bowls without stems, and both are of unusual interest. The stem-hole of one is so large and shallow that the stem must have been secured by a thong around the bowl, for which a groove has been supplied



FIG. 45.—STONE PIPE, FROM A GRAVE ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1558. ($\frac{3}{4}$)

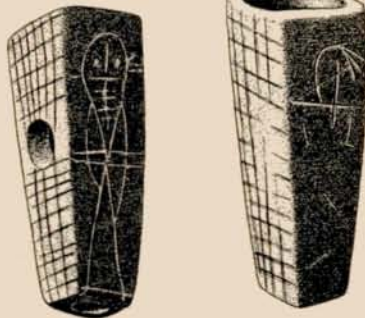


FIG. 46.—STONE PIPE, FROM THE VICINITY OF CHATTANOOGA. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1554. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

(fig. 45). The hollow of the bowl does not reach quite to the center of the stem-hole. The pipe has a flat base. A similar pipe, differing however in small details

and not provided with a groove, was illustrated by McGuire,¹ who suspected that the stem had been bound to the bowl by a lashing of some kind because of the nature of the stem-hole. The grooved bowl just described confirms his suspicion.

The other stemless bowl is squarish in form with a stem-hole about midway between top and base. The hollow of the bowl, instead of stopping at the level of the stem, passes entirely through and appears as a small perforation in the base (fig. 46). All four of the sides are decorated: on two opposing sides by parallel incised lines crossing at right angles; the third surface bears an incised human figure; while on the fourth the pattern seems to have been left unfinished. A stone pipe from Moccasin bend (near Williams island) is reproduced here

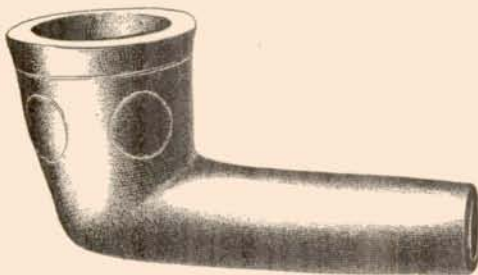


FIG. 47.—STONE PIPE, FROM MOCCASIN BEND, TENNESSEE RIVER. WESLEYAN COLLECTION. (3)



FIG. 48.—CLAY PIPE. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1560. (3)

because of the excellent taste and skilled workmanship it displays (fig. 47). The four scarcely discernible protuberances on the bowl are each inclosed by an incised circle. Above these is a slight constriction marked by a horizontal incised line, and then a gently flaring square-cut top.

Among the pottery pipes of the collection the bird plays a dominant rôle. In figure 48 the open beak clasps the bowl of the pipe. Nasal opening and eye are both indicated. The stem is broken at the



FIG. 49.—CLAY PIPE, FROM A GRAVE ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1561. (3)



FIG. 50.—UNFINISHED CLAY PIPE (OWL EFFIGY). WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1560. (3)

¹ Pipes and Smoking Customs of the American Aborigines, *National Museum Report for 1897*, fig. 49.



a



b

BOAT-SHAPED CLAY VESSELS, FROM GRAVES ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NOS. 1640 AND 1641. (1/2)



CLAY VESSELS FROM GRAVES ON WILLIAMS ISLAND. THE DESIGN ON THE LARGER IS THE SAME AS ON ONE FROM LENOIRS ISLAND, TENNESSEE RIVER, FIGURED BY THOMAS. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1640. (1)

second incised line. Whether it is a bird's open beak or the mouth of some other creature that holds the bowl of the pipe in figure 49 would be difficult to say. At all events the idea is the same as that expressed in the preceding figure. A crude effigy of an owl was intended for a pipe, although the hollow of the bowl is left in such an unfinished state as to be of little service. The holes for both bowl and stem are placed dorsally (fig. 50).

A remarkable tubular stone pipe from Williams island was described by McGuire.¹ It is 23 cm. long. The opening at the smaller end is thought "to have been intended for the insertion of a stem of wood." A relief figure of the head and neck of a dog or a wolf is stretched lengthwise on the tube, which is further ornamented by an incised figure on each side. One of these "appears to represent the skin of some bird or animal."

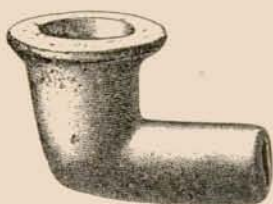


FIG. 51.—CLAY PIPE. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1558. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

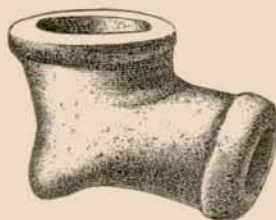


FIG. 52.—CLAY PIPE. VICINITY OF CHATTANOOGA. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1554. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

COPPER

Not much in the way of copper has been reported from Williams island. The specimens examined seem to be intended for ceremonial or ornamental uses, and for the greater part are made of sheet-copper. So far as form and workmanship are concerned, there is nothing to suggest European origin. It should be noted, however, that two copper discs are associated by the cataloguer with a string of beads, among which are three made of glass; the others are shell. These copper discs, of which the larger is seen in figure 53, both have a central perforation and both are slightly dished. The larger, made of rather



FIG. 53.—DISC OF HEAVY SHEET-COPPER. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1618. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

¹Op. cit., fig. 41.

heavy sheet-copper, was hafted. The marks left by the handle, which reached only to the perforation, are more distinctly visible on the back than on the front. They reached the periphery in line with the smaller of the two notches at the top of the disc. The smaller disc has a diameter of 6.4 cm. and is thin in proportion. It does not appear to have been hafted. The two discs and the string of beads have the same catalogue number (1618). The larger disc is labeled as having been dug out of a mound on Williams island in July, 1895, by W. P. Elkins.

The broader of the two copper pendants shown in figure 54 is from Williams island. The other is from the vicinity of Chattanooga; as are likewise a quantity

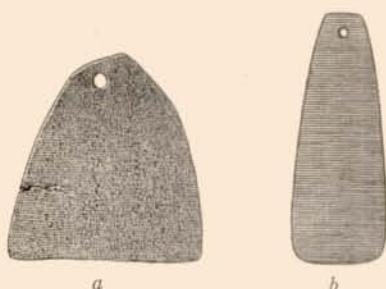


FIG. 54.—PENDANTS OF COPPER. *a*, WILLIAMS ISLAND. COLLECTION MARION NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. (1); *b*, VICINITY OF CHATTANOOGA. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1564. (2)

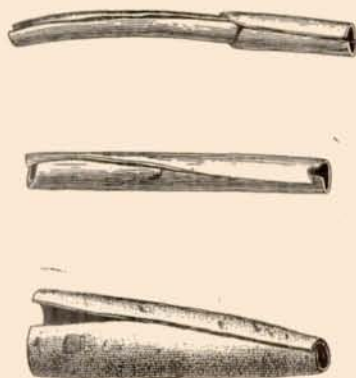


FIG. 55.—BEADS OF SHEET-COPPER. VICINITY OF CHATTANOOGA. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1564. (3)

of sheet-copper beads, of which examples are seen in figure 55. The only copper bracelet is in a single piece, that has a breadth of 4.4 cm. The ends are rounded.

Wesleyan University is to be congratulated on having secured so many important antiquities from a given locality in Tennessee. It is, however, unfortunate that a prehistory of Williams island could not have been written during the lifetime of Barnes and Loper. The instance of this collection thus illustrates anew not only the desirability of expert scientific control in archeological excavations but also the duty imposed on the collector to see that the results are published promptly.

YALE UNIVERSITY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT



a



b

CLAY VESSELS. WILLIAMS ISLAND. WESLEYAN COLLECTION, NO. 1641. ($\frac{1}{4}$ AND $\frac{1}{2}$)

DISCUSSION

MISS H. NEWELL WARDLE, commenting on the apparently genuine character of the antiquities shown and alleged to have come from Williams island, although they had passed through hands later responsible for the distribution of spurious artifacts, called attention to the recent careful investigation of the site by Mr Clarence B. Moore, which showed little of interest there and absolutely none of the minute points which have been marketed as coming thence. Mr Moore's work, just concluded along the Tennessee river, had resulted in the discovery of the first stone-box graves reported from Alabama, and in fact the first stone graves of any type in that state, in the definition of a local culture near Chattanooga, Tenn., characterized by a new type of pottery—a painted ware unlike any other fictile product of the Eastern culture province—and in the mapping-out of the distribution of four distinct types of burial.

These latter, while occasionally superimposed so as to afford some sort of chronologic sequence data, were for the greater part intercalated. Some doubtless were synchronous, others, without question, separated by considerable periods of time. The latest were probably the ordinary interments in flexed or extended position, often associated with pottery not essentially differing from the ware of the Southern states. These occurred along the entire river, often in association with graves of other types, but were most abundant along the western section of the river's southern bend through northern Alabama. Second, communal burials on a tamped plane, cremated by covering with incandescent clay from a burnt structure. Quite local in occurrence in southeastern Tennessee, it was underlaid by an earlier stone grave, and cut through from above by unburnt graves, corresponding to the first group. Third, burials often characterized by a ceremonial deposit of clay in layers or lumps differing in kind from the material of the grave itself, and by the inordinate use of galena (lead sulphide) as a white paint. To this group apparently belonged the ceremonial four-armed copper or so-called reel-shaped ceremonial. This people, occupying settlements along the whole southern bend of the Tennessee, seem to have been little acquainted with pottery. The graves in many cases are undoubtedly very ancient, but in at least one locality (Roden mounds) the presence of the money cowry of the Old World dates the site in part to the Columbian era. Lastly, the stone graves which Mr Moore divides into three types—box, slab, and aberrant forms. They are most abundant in the northwestern part of the course of the Tennessee, but sporadic along its entire length. Judging from the frequent entire absence of skeletal remains, these graves would seem to go back to a very remote time; yet, in other instances, typical stone graves contain the bones of children, which fact marks them as of no great antiquity. In one instance a stone-slab grave occurred in the same locality—without sequence data, however—with graves of the first group, which come down to early post-Columbian times. Again, they were found in association with graves of the third group, or, yet again, underlying the burnt-clay graves of the second group. It was partly in association with a stone-box grave, partly in a grave undifferentiated by the use of stone, that the new painted pottery was found. The mixed ethnic history of the region covered by Mr Moore's latest work gives to his results a special interest. Unfortunately little somatological material was in a condition to be preserved. What little has yet been studied by Dr Hrdlička points to at least some of the folk who made the graves of the undifferentiated type or group as of Algonquian stock—probably the Shawnee, who inhabited the region in historic times.