

ARCHAIC COPPER NEWSLETTER THE A.C.N.

Edited by Monette Bebow-Reinhard

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Another Step Toward Dating Artifacts?

An article shared by **Mike Ruggeri** talked about figuring out what degree of annealing was done on pieces in the Chicago & Harvard collections, with datings on each. I needed first to find what type of artifact these were to see if there was any consistency in type by dating. If a type I-B socketed, riveted point was found in Hopewell context, it can be as old as that period, but we can't say then whether it was made earlier as well. But this kind of dating

Hopewell site, and something that turned out to be a fraud. See photo here—this celt was not noted as the fraud.

It's difficult to understand what to make of these sources, and objects found in databases, sometimes. The best I can do is make notes pointing out discrepancies, and let those who know how to do this research make what they will of it.

For now, here's what I've come up

III. MIDDLE WOODLAND AND HOPEWELL (100 B.C. TO A.D. 700)							
South Bend, Indiana, surface find	75	Tip	0.08	76	86	63	— cast, unworked structure — gas holes — no twins.
Marquette Co., Wisconsin, surface find	1195	Tang	0.48	70	76	65	— recrystallized grain structure — bent twins near outer edge of socket — variation in etch attack within grains.
		Tip	0.19	87	100	77	— slight indication of cold worked structure — bent twins — variation in etch

at least gives us something to go on.

In this 1968 article by Schroeder/Ruhl, they talked about a cast "ax" found in Indiana, dated it Hopewell and then proceeded to say that none of the materials examined showed signs of casting except a "lump" found at a

with for dating, based on this article:

Hopewell/Woodland = celt ax, solid copper earspools, needles, I-B point, a number of spear points at the Field Museum that I need to see to figure out the type, and, apparently, a cast copper celt.

editorial

I am considering the idea of having a website where people can buy whatever part of the CAMD suits them, rather than publishing an entire book with everything in it. What does everyone think of that idea? I would have



a full price unit, and then break that down into sections. I'm a little out of my league on this idea, but I thought I'd start with my current website, give those folks a call, see what they can set up.

I had a disappointment this past month in that my

notes from the last artifact show I went to have disappeared. I found the cards and still have the photos so will now have to try and salvage what I can. See p. 3. It's turning out that having a full-time job doesn't mesh well with this research.

TidBits

I think perhaps that I might propose to Oshkosh that I do a presentation on what makes the Reigh site a Glacial Kame/OCC/ Late Archaic transitioning into Hopewell. That could be a challenge, and we could certainly accept whatever results come out of the research with an open mind.

My talk in Houghton will be based on the article I'm putting together about collectors and their contributions to the CAMD, starting with Hamilton, trying to figure out when collectors and archaeologists stopped getting along. If you have insights, please contact me.

I haven't heard back from AES about giving a presentation, although I did neglect to send in my membership dues. Their meetings haven't aligned with my free time lately. I planned a presentation on copper artifacts found in effigy mounds. Could be a short lecture!

New ideas for CAMD —offer to highest bidder with professional credentials; or hire a web manager.

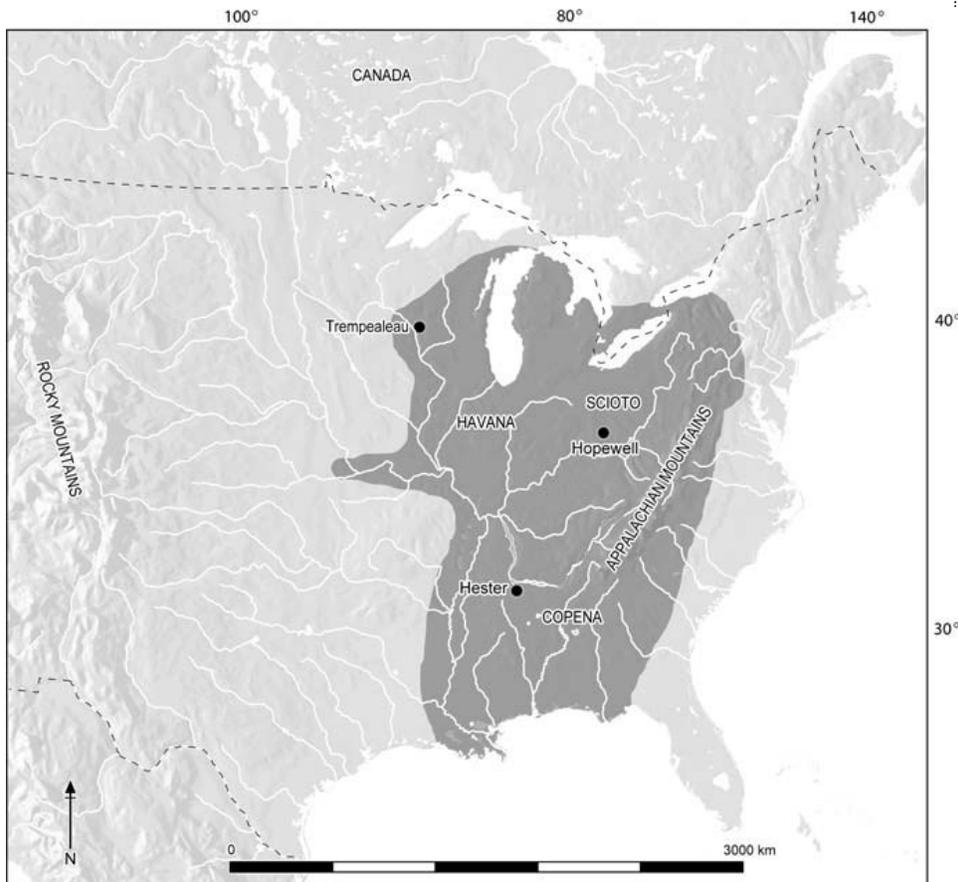
GLACIAL KAME TO HOPEWELL?

Remember last month you saw a Glacial Kame Map? We're going to continue exploring that topic here using Christine Keller's master thesis; this Hopewell sites map from Ehrhardt's, "Copper Working Techniques," is offered for comparison to the maps from last month.

Glacial Kame sites included cremated and flexed burials, often including red ocher, making them related to red ocher sites found at Menominee, MI and elsewhere. Their cemeteries appear to be repeated over time, which could make them similar to Oconto and other OCC, and to Reigh. Shell gorgets are rarely found at red ocher sites and caches of flint points are never found at Glacial Kame sites.

Can we think of any other reason, apart from cultural differences, that would account for this? One is that red ocher sites may have been a more northerly phenomenon.

Here's Keller: "Because of the similarities between Glacial Kame, Red Ocher, Old Copper, and other regional burial practices and the fact that these cultures are defined almost exclusively from mortuary sites, some archaeologists argued that these are not cultures at all but simply "material remains of a burial complex" or part of the same type of cultural activity (Fitting 1970; Griffin 1948; Stothers et



al. 2001).



I interpret this as meaning that material choices made are not indicative of completely separate cultural groups. She quotes from others who agree that similarities far outweigh the differences. Think of the identification, then, as a marker of where these materials were found, and not of distinct cultural groups. I do think it's important to know where these kinds of trade items are found, especially when it indicates they came up from the Gulf of Mexico. From who? Why? This is why it's important to bring emphasis to Texas site and its river route (see left). Allen's Creek, where they found probable Glacial Kame, is near Sealy, Texas in Austin County, and it flows into the (now overflowing) Brazos River, which flows into the Gulf of Mexico. This demonstrates a potential trade dispersal, either south to north, or north to south. It's illuminating to know the shell they

used was from the Gulf Coast. This means that all of the cultural groups in all time periods back to OCC had connections to the Gulf. The other interesting thing to note about the Brazos River is that it starts in Clovis, New Mexico.

Stats she quoted: 200 Glacial Kame sites, 41 with sandal shell gorgets that total 106 found. She does list Reigh in that inventory of 106. Her table 16 shows that Reigh's gorget was the second smallest. She analyzes the placement of the holes, but gives no consideration to the route these shells would have taken to get here, or any emphasis on the Texas site. The gorgets were variably located in burials on head or chest. One was found with a female burial between her legs; she had another on her chest. The one at Reigh was found with a female, also surmised to have been placed on her chest. She was tightly flexed; it was found up under her neck into her jaw. Some have interesting etchings, one in northern Ohio has arrows, clearly defined, pointing up and down. A "tall man" was found in one grave in Ohio with copper axes and shell gorgets, as reported in 1881.

ARTIFACT SHOW ON APRIL 26:

In a horrifying turn of events (I blame having a full-time job) I have lost my notes from this show. I did find some of the cards and emailed one of the people I think I remembered with a pretty nice collection. I just finished putting a spreadsheet together for them, but most of the locations are missing. They said if I emailed them, they'd give me more information. Without those notes, though, much of what I found there is going to waste, and I feel really bad.

Anyway, here's a photo of the most intriguing piece found that day: Is this unusual hoop a bracelet or some other kind of object I've not yet seen?



CAMD UPDATE: Sad also to report that the CAMD lost count last month due to a diminished South American database; Nearly a thousand artifacts fell off the total there. I have no idea what happened. It's almost like since I started this monthly count, and the numbers have been climbing proportionate to entries, that this suddenness indicates I accidentally deleted that many rows of data. What I can do—and will—is go back to the backups and see what the count looks like there, and why.

But the count is up again, thanks also to me missing entry of the Vargas bells in various places until now, particularly from the Arizona State Museum. Mike Jacobs sent me a list of his other artifacts, so finally I created his spreadsheet and added his material; and to encourage some photos from him, sent him a couple. These could relate to the cover story shown in this newsletter. I also finally sent a spreadsheet to Jerry Howard at Arizona Museum of Natural History, but I had no locations on those; hopefully he'll be able to find them.

Total count is 50,473.

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OLD DATING FOR ART WORK IN ALASKA

www.sitnews.us/0515News/050715/050715_ak_science.html

I wish I could say there was more old copper in the CAMD found in Alaska but it's interesting to read about this any-



way. The oldest copper artifacts found there are probably the fish hooks and a rat-tail point, although it would be foolish to base age on a simple description. This bear mask with copper mouth and eyes is potentially historic, but with a pre-contact reason for the placement of copper here. The only cultural associations are prehistoric Eskimo and Tlingit. Here's an excerpt from Indians.org:

“The Tlingit are also known as Kolosh and are a Native American people that belong to the Southeastern coast and coastal islands of Alaska. The Tlingit Indians and the Haida are closely related in culture. The Tlingit Indians are known for their elaborate ceremonies. One of the more well-known ceremonies was the potlatch, which was usually performed out of respect for the dead. These ceremonies traditionally lasted for four days. They consisted of dances, songs, performances, gifts, and a feast which were hosted by one group for another. “

Why would they use copper for eyes and mouth? Anyone have any thoughts?

Thanks to **Mike Ruggeri** for passing on this article.

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MISSING SOUTH AMERICA:

I found a backup of the CAMD from March and made a dedicated comparison between old and new to try and figure out what got lost. Or how the numbers got mixed up. I keep a tally every month of what numbers every location has, and this tally indicates a gradual rise, except in April, but even that jump was only about 500. In the comparison I found some artifacts were missing in the current one, but not many. I also found one duplicate. What accounted for the discrepancy was some group totals that had gotten added into the total count. So that's something I need to be careful of and will avoid by doing a reboot of each database before I add the count for the month.

One thing that intrigued me was finding a perforated knife among the Peruvian artifacts. Unfortunately there wasn't a photo of this, but this would definitely be something I'd want to get a photo of. Is it anything like the hash mark knives we've mapped? If it is, in what direction might these have been traded?

Archaic Copper Newsletter

Monette Bebow-Reinhard
102 Brown Quail Court #7
Madison, WI 53713
(920) 639-5842
www.monettebebow-reinhard.com
bebowreinhard@gmail.com

This newsletter is dedicated to dissemination and exploration of the archaic copper artifacts in collections in the Americas, to gather that information into a master database and let that information speak on behalf of the cultures that used them.

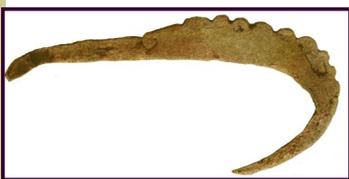
Reminder that these photos are NOT to be copied and used anywhere else.



This month's photo is from LA Natural History Museum. You might have a different idea of what this is, but it looks like a feathered serpent to me—it's from Columbia in South America.

The Snakes Have Come Out

Ted Sojka sent me a link to a collection of snakes from fellow A.C.N. subscriber Larry Furo's postings at Facebook. Look above for a copper snake artifact I found that I think is pretty cool. Feathered serpents, or serpents with horns, are found in iconographic representation all over the place. But there are also photos that demonstrate a possible evolution of snake



to a four-legged mythological beast (one that became the Ho-Dag of Rhineland).

The feathered serpent has also been referred to as a Quetzalcoatl icon, for the legend of the hero in Mesoamerica. A rough drawing of a feathered serpent was found in rock art in LaCrosse. And latest research indicates that the great serpent mound was likely built as a solstice marker, with some believing it



dates back to pre-Hopewell days.

An article on the solstice connection appeared in the Spring 2015 American Archaeology magazine and noted the research done last year that connects this mound's alignments to the way Aztec cities were designed.

And then there's the snake mounds in Menasha, Wisconsin, reported in the A.C.N. some years back.

Snakes fascinate us humans, for its ability to shed its skin, to come up from the underground as the weather begins to warm; they've been revered and maligned in spiritual circles. Snakes kill vermin, can be friendly and can be deadly. Just what role



they played in the past we may never know. (Above Jefferson County; left, if not a snake, then what?)