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ANTHROPOLOGY IN FLORIDA

Any attempt to investigate the origin and customs of the aborigines of Florida through reliance on written materials is almost immediately frustrated by the paucity of such material and the scantiness of data available. Even an attempt to summarize the work done by field investigators leads to the baffling task of trying to reconcile conflicting theories, a condition that arises from the fact that the conclusions reached as to the origin, antiquity, and life of the early peoples of Florida are so indefinite. Yet there are few regions in the United States more abundantly supplied with mounds that call for further investigation. Dr. Aleš Hrdlicka wrote of the southwestern coast in 1918:

This region contains a wealth of archaeological remains which would long since have created quite a stir if located in a more accessible part of the country.¹

But before venturing into the archaeological work that has been done in Florida, it is best to ascertain the ethnology and affiliations of the early inhabitants of the state.

The first question that arises, of course, is that of the antiquity of man in Florida, although the problem is largely an archaeological one. This problem is the "subject of many discussions and controversies".² In some places human bones have been found in a petrified state or in close association with those of extinct animals and these have been taken as proofs of man's antiquity in Florida. Yet in many cases the association of fossils of extinct species has been intrusive

¹Aleš Hrdlicka, *The Anthropology of Florida*, Publications of the Florida State Historical Society (DeLand, Florida, 1922), 1.

²*ibid.*, 68.

while the petrification and inclusion of bones in rock is frequently rapid. The undergrowth and the trees growing on the mounds indicate some age as does the size of the mounds, since it must have taken some time to build them, whether for burials, domiciliary purposes, or mere refuse heaps. Many of them are undoubtedly prehistoric, with no trace of articles of European introduction, yet in others articles showing European influence are found in the upper layers. Despite the more or less accidental finds of recent years, which might be held to impute some antiquity to man in Florida, the conclusion reached by Dr. Hrdlicka over ten years ago, although conservative, still seems to be the most satisfactory. He wrote that no human remains from Florida or any other part of the Americas

could conscientiously be accepted as representing man of antiquity beyond a few thousand years at most and of other than the ordinary Indian type ; nor are there apparent any indications that anything much older may in these parts of the world be yet discovered.³

So he held a few centuries before the coming of the whites as the earliest date for prehistoric man in Florida, as represented in the work of the mound builders. With no archaeological evidence of a pre-mound building occupation, such an earlier people "must have been few in numbers, of similar culture and of Indian derivation." Thus the peopling of Florida "was a relatively late event in the peopling of the continent, and one without much consequence,"⁴ although hunting parties probably came from the north before the actual settlement. It is probable, however, that peoples in a hunting stage of culture reached all parts of the New World ; so, this implies nothing peculiar to Florida.

³ *Ibid.*, 68-69.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 69-70.

The origin of the Florida population has not been definitely ascertained, although there are several theories, but the present tendency is to point to the north and northwest as the source of derivation. Frank Hamilton Cushing concluded that the key-dwellers of the Ten Thousand Islands were alien comers to Florida,⁶ and that the mound builders of the lake regions of northern Florida

were originally a people of the sea, not of the mainland, were a people who had once lived as the key dwellers lived, on island mounds in the sea or its shoals, here using such implements as their ancestors had there used, and carrying ancestral ideas of habitation and of utensils down from generation to generation, and so, slowly up into the land.⁶

They built mounds in the sea and this custom became so fixed traditionally

that withersoever they or rather their descendants went thereafter, they continued the practice as an essential tribal regulation.⁷

In the discussion that followed the advancement of this conclusion Dr. Brinton held that the culture of Florida developed from a northern center, from north Florida and Georgia,⁸ while Dr. Putnam advanced the theory that the people came across the Isthmus from South America, extending through the Central American region and along the Gulf of Mexico over into Florida, finally being driven onto the keys.⁹ This latter theory is substantiated to some extent by an axe that Cushing found at Key Marco that indicated relations with Central America, and by the fact that

⁶Frank Hamilton Cushing, *The Pepper-Hearst Expedition: Preliminary Report on the Exploration of Ancient Key Dweller Remains on the Gulf Coast of Florida* Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, XXXV, No. 153, p. 68.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 74.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 7.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 109-110.

⁹Hrdlička, 78-79.a.

successive waves of immigration swept across the Mississippi, of which the Seminoles were among the last.¹⁰

On the other hand Cushing continued to maintain that these Indians were Arawaks or Caribs who came up from South America despite linguistic evidence, since the skulls were more nearly of the Antillean type than of the northern Indian type.¹¹ And there is evidence that there was an Arawakan colony from Cuba on the southwestern coast within the territory of the Calusa. Their ancestors had landed in Florida in search of the fountain of youth and were

forcibly detained by the Caloosa chief, who colonized them in a settlement, where for a long time afterward they still preserved their separate identity.

So regular communication probably existed between the tribes of Florida and the Antilles in early times.

Fewkes also concluded that

the evidence is fairly good that the archaic culture of the Greater Antilles extended over the northern portion of the peninsula of Florida under a superficial Muskhogean or later development.¹²

And the similarities in culture found in the Cuban and Floridian mounds are probably due to contact and interchange of cultures.

The proximity of Florida to Cuba, and the existence in both of pile-villages and shell-heaps showing that their makers were possessed of a very similar culture, has led Dr. Fewkes to the conclusion that there were probably early connections between them.¹³

¹⁰*Ibid.*, 64.

¹¹Cushing, Cushing 111; Hrdlicka 79.

¹²James Mooney, "The Ethnography of Florida", *American Anthropologist*, N. S., 7:368A-B.

¹³Charlotte D. Gower, "The Northern and Southern Affiliations of Antillean Culture," *Memoirs of the American Anthropological Association*, No. 35, 1927, p. 11.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, 15.

But Charlotte Gower concluded that the Cushing hypothesis had been largely discredited by the absence of supporting evidence and that

The resemblances between Antillean and southeastern cultures are not sufficiently great to justify the belief in any actual migration of peoples from the southern to the northern continent by way of the islands.¹⁵

Dr. Hrdlicka, who concluded that none of the Florida types of skulls point to a derivation from the southward, gave the most authoritative statement as to the origin of the aborigines of Florida, based on physical anthropology :

It would seem from the present facts that the bulk of the Muskhogean people must have been derived originally from the more northern long-headed tribes ; that they extended once well towards the south from the Atlantic to and beyond the Mississippi, but did not occupy, or occupied but sparsely or only in spots, the territory along the Gulf; and that then came a relatively strong invasion from the West or Southwest—possibly from Mexico—of people of a distinct type not hitherto represented east of the Mississippi; that this current overflowed the Gulf states and Florida, overcame and absorbed whatever there may have already been there, extended as far as it could northward, and in the course of frequent warfares as well as in amical relations, became extensively mingled and even admixed with the contact tribes, admixing them to a similar extent. The strongest of these contact tribes formed eventually a political union together with the main portion of the southern stock, which union was the Muskhogean confederacy; and they possibly accepted more or less the language or perhaps the main language of the more highly cultured southerners.¹⁶

There are two strong impressions in regard to the Florida Indians—the first, that so little is known about

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 48.

¹⁶ Hrdlicka, 114-116.

them, and the second, that they have so completely vanished. We do know that in the northern part of the peninsula were the Timucua and in the south the Calusa. The Ais, Tekesta, Hobe, and other tribes were scattered along the southern and eastern coasts—all of them of a rather low culture, some without agriculture—and were more or less subject to the Calusa. The Calusa tribe held the southwest coast from about Tampa Bay to Cape Sable and Cape Florida,

together with all the outlying keys, and extending inland to Lake Okeechobee. They claimed more or less authority also over the tribes of the east coast north to about Cape Canaveral.¹⁸

Nothing definite is known in regard to the linguistic affinity of the Calusa or their immediate neighbors, although the dialects of the west coast are generally classed with the Muskogean.

These Indians, living "partly in amity, partly in discord", were grouped in "villages along the Atlantic and the Gulf coasts, about the inland sounds and lakes, and along the rivers." Their organization and culture was in general like that of the southern tribes. They lived on molluscs, fish, game, roots, wild fruit, and vegetables that were raised in gardens or small fields. "They were largely a canoe people, and the men were reputed as fighters."

Living predominantly on the low swampy mangrove- and insect-plagued keys and coasts, that were further liable to inundation during storms, they constructed extensive shell-heaps that would serve as safe, dry and clean platforms for their habitations. They also constructed canals and sheltered lagoons for their canoes, brought where necessary the shell detritus and muck for their gardens, and built sand and shell mounds for burials and other purposes.¹⁹

¹⁷Gower, 11, *et.*

¹⁸Hrdlička, 58, *dlicka*.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, 57-58.

Physically the Timucua of northern Florida, the St. Johns River Indians, and the Calusa were the same people, although Dr. Hrdlicka found two types of skulls, one a prevalent and fundamental type and the other less numerous and more recent. The brachycephals were found over the northern two-thirds of the peninsula, while the oblong heads were more frequent in the southern third and along parts of the east coast. The former have physical affinities to the immediate north and west, but were probably derived from the northwest, west, or southwest, and indications favor Mexico. Since the discovery this type has become very largely extinct except in the mixed survivors of the Choctaw. The more oblong-headed elements of Florida are identified with the Seminoles and other Muskhogean tribes of northern derivation. In stature the Florida males were decidedly robust, not giants in stature, but strong in frame and musculature, so that it "can be readily understood that they had the reputation of fierce fighters."²⁰

As for the Seminoles, they were Creeks who came across the Mississippi before Columbus and dwelled north and northwest of the peninsula, settling in the northern part of Florida after 1732 and making frequent incursions into central Florida. Most of them were transported to the Indian Territory after the second Seminole War (1836-1842) and the remnants, about 600 strong, dwell in the Everglades. Thus the Seminoles do not belong to the prehistory of Florida, but there is much work to be done in securing more detailed and authentic information concerning their customs and manner of living.

Most of the data that have been assembled in regard to prehistoric man in Florida have come from archaeological investigation, but in this work there is

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 127, 130-131.

much yet to be done. There is need for the discovery and mapping of unexplored mounds so that they can be scientifically investigated before the process of levelling them off into fields increases with the growth of the population of Florida. In addition, curio seekers have destroyed many mounds and this tendency will continue as long as unqualified persons are permitted to dig into mounds. In 1882, Andrew E. Douglass wrote that the mounds were

fading away under the corrosion of agriculture and the elements, and the more serious evil of the curiosity of relic hunters, intent simply upon the acquisition of some object of pecuniary value, indifferent meanwhile to the characteristics of the mound they destroy, and to the facts attending the locality of the objects obtained which may invest them with peculiar archaeological value. Relics of metal have gone into the melting pot and others of stone have been broken in the handling and finally thrown away and lost.²¹

There is much weight to Dr. Hrdlicka's plea for the erection of national reservations where the mounds are particularly interesting or plentiful, where archaeologists may be able to work carefully and leisurely in the task of ascertaining more concerning the prehistoric peoples of Florida. He spoke of "Brown's Place" on Turner's River as "the most noteworthy group of shell heaps and mounds to be found in the entire region."

The site is so characteristic, and probably so important to science, that steps, it would seem, ought to be taken to preserve it for posterity, which could best be done by making it a national reservation. The expense of this at present would be insignificant, and little time should be lost in having it carefully surveyed, which could be done with no

²¹A. E. Douglass, "A Find of Ceremonial Weapons in a Florida Mound, with Brief Notice of Other Mounds in that State", *Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science*, XXXI, 585.

great cost or difficulty at a time when the mosquito pest abates in some measure.²²

But even the task of digging into a mound by competent persons is not an easy one. Numerous obstacles exist. The chief is, of course, the financial one, concerned with the equipment and maintenance of the expeditions for work in regions that are often inaccessible except by boat as is the case in the Ten Thousand Islands. And the mounds generally lie along the coast or some waterway and are overgrown with trees and underbrush so that the physical labor required is not small, particularly when the mounds are, as in the keys, in swampy regions that are covered with rank vegetation and trees. Also, the digging cannot commence until the permission of the owner of the land has been obtained which in some instances has been difficult. But finally and second to the financial obstacle in difficulty is the biological one. It is hard to choose a season when the mosquitoes or sandflies or redbugs or snakes are not decided pests and a menace to the proper attention to the work. And often after all these obstacles have been overcome the returns are very small.

One of the early investigators of the Florida mounds was Dr. Jeffries Wyman, who worked in the fresh water shell mounds along the St. Johns River, particularly around Lake George and Palatka, at various times from 1860 to 1875. He concluded that most of these mounds were completed and had been abandoned before the whites landed in Florida. He wrote in 1875:

The only records we have of the earliest inhabitants of the St. John's are, the shell mounds and the comparatively few implements they contain. Judging from these of the progress the natives had made, it is clear that they too had passed out of

²²Hrdlička, Hr339.

the primitive stage, had become hunters, had made some progress in the useful arts, and however rude their implements they were such as could only have been the result of long continued efforts. They have left no signs of having learned the art of agriculture, but their tools, if they had any, may have been of a perishable nature. In the oldest mounds no pottery has been discovered, the builders of them no doubt having been ignorant of it. Though implements of wrought shell, bone, and stone are met with, they are not numerous, and those of stone from the interior of the mounds are quite rare.²²

He also concluded that the older natives subsisted chiefly on fish and shellfish since the bones of animals obtained by hunting on land were in comparatively small numbers. But when the whites came these natives had outlived the mode of life which gave rise to these habits or had been replaced by others of different habits.

The stone implements found by Wyman showed that the builders of these mounds were acquainted with their use from the beginning, though they were perhaps not in common use. There was a certain lack of skill in manufacture evident in the earlier implements of stone, but those found on the surface were well wrought and corresponded to those found in Georgia and neighboring states. The stone implements included chips, hammerstones, arrowheads, and rude celts. Pottery was scarce and always rude in manufacture and ornamentation, obviously made by hand and stamped in squares. The shell implements were more common and included chisels, gouges, and drinking shells. He found few shell ornaments and an entire absence of pipes and metals.

Wyman concluded that these ancient inhabitants of the St. Johns were cannibals due to the condition

²²Jeffries Jeffries Wyman, *Fresh-Water Shell Mounds of the St. Johns River, Florida* (Salem, Massachusetts, 1875), 47.

of the human bones found and because of the absence of evidence to show that they were broken up while exposed on the ground by animals. It was reported by early writers that the Floridians were eaters of human flesh, and this has since been borne out by archaeological findings such as Wyman's. Among the animal remains found in the mounds were those of the bear, raccoon, hare, deer, otter, opossum, turkey, alligator, turtle, gopher, and of various birds and fish.²⁴

Some ten or fifteen years later Andrew E. Douglass investigated the sand and shell mounds of the north Atlantic coast between the St. Johns River and Mosquito Inlet, excavating more than forty mounds, but he was chiefly concerned with the burials, and his principal conclusion was that "the whole district supported a most abundant population in ancient times" due to the number of the mounds.²⁵ This, of course, has not been definitely ascertained. The Calusa are reported by Fontaneda as not having over 1500 to 2000 persons, while Brinton estimated that the aboriginal population of the whole peninsula never exceeded 10,000, "which for the maximum of the Floridian native population about the time of discovery is probably too low." Hrdlicka continues:

The natives were much more than mere hunting tribes, but it remains certain that the estimates of the Spaniards, as on so many other occasions, were exaggerations. Much larger numbers could not possibly have melted away so completely between the sixteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century as have the Floridians, of whom since about 1820 not a known living trace remains; they have not even left any mixed population, though some traces of their blood are probably coursing in the veins of the Seminoles who have roamed since over the southern parts of the peninsula.

²⁴Wyman, 68; Gower, 36.

²⁵Douglass, 585-592.

The material remains of the old native Floridian population, the shell heaps and mounds,

constitute an index of expended labor, of the number and extent of the settlements, and of the approximate number of the burials. . .

but they are complicated by the uncertain time element. And it is

improbable that all the sites were occupied or peopled to the maximum at the time of discovery, and the accumulation of burials has doubtless taken many generations, yet plainly these remains enclose a story which, when once properly interpreted, will be of great help to the student seeking a solution of the question of the numbers of the Floridian population.

And he concluded that there were no great numbers except in a few localities. The settlements were small and the burial mounds were not abundant enough in number of contents to denote more than a moderate population, so that from 25,000 to 30,000 would be a fair approximation at the time of discovery.²⁶

The most interesting work and certainly the richest in return was that of the Pepper-Hearst Expedition under the direction of Frank Hamilton Cushing, which explored the region in the Ten Thousand Islands and made some remarkable discoveries at Key Marco in 1895. Hrdlicka described these keys:

These keys, formed by oyster bars, sand and the roots of the mangrove tree, are from a few feet to a number of miles in area, and are, as a rule, just above the level of the sea. But an insignificant proportion of these islands have been utilized by the key-dwellers.²⁷

Cushing termed the aboriginal culture of the Florida keys a pile-dwelling one, but Hrdlicka thought the term an unmerited one. The remains in the Ten Thou-

²⁶Hrdlička, 66-68.a

²⁷*Ibid.*, 7.

sand Islands consist of shell heaps from an acre to fifty acres in size, arranged in such a way as to indicate a system of construction.

These heaps are not simple kitchen middens, but purposely built ridges or mounds, from all available shell. They were elevated platforms, which the Indian was obliged to build before he could feel assured of the safety of his habitation from inundation during high tide or storms. They are rather sterile though not barren of remains, both cultural and skeletal; but rare individual isolated shell mounds have served for burials.²⁸

It is not necessary to enter into a description of the various objects of wood and shell that were found "in the muck at the bottom of a small triangular court enclosed between ridges of shell,"²⁹ for they are described in detail in Cushing's preliminary. It is evident that they represented

the remains of a people not only well advanced toward barbaric civilization, but of a people with a very ancient and distinctive culture.³⁰

The collections represent what Cushing called a Shell Age phase of human development and culture. The peoples who once inhabited Key Marco understood plaiting, weaving, and basketry making. They were a maritime folk engaged in fishing in the waters of the Ten Thousand Islands that teemed with fish. They had fish preserves in the lagoons that were shut off in such a manner that fish were unable to escape, an invention of theirs that probably spread to the interior of the southeastern states. The important possession of each man was his canoe, generally a light, flat-bottomed affair, built rather narrow in order to run the tidal currents and low breakers. It is evident that dogs were used in hunting at Key Marco, for

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 48.

²⁹ Hrdlička, 8.

³⁰ Cushing, 82.

skulls were found that are identified as of the same type as the Inca dogs of Peru.

This "desert of the waters" in which these aborigines lived

both forced and fostered rapid and high development of the people who entered it and elected or were driven to abide in it.

To build the shell keys and provide an ample supply of fish it was necessary for the men "to unite in each single enterprise" which led "to increased communality, but also to a higher, and in this case, an effective degree of organization". The dangers which were greater than those of human foemen necessitated

far more arduous communal effort in the construction of places, rather than houses, of harbors and storm defenses, rather than fortified dwellings, and the construction of these places under such difficulty and stress, led to far more highly concerted action and therefore developed necessarily not only sociologic organization nearly as high, but perforce a far higher *executive* governmental organization.

So it was probable that a favored class was developed and chieftains were nearly regal in power and tenure, even in civil office.³¹

These people were probably the Calusa and the power of the Calusa chief was indeed great. Special food was prepared for him and first born sons were sacrificed in his honor, while human sacrifices were made at his death.³²

Hrdlicka, who also explored this region in 1918, concluded that the southwestern coast

was peopled during late pre-columbian and well into historic times by a large Indian population of homogeneous nature culturally, though possibly not somatologically.

³¹Cushing, Cushing, 84.

³²Gower, Gower, 35.

³³Hrdlička, 51, dlicka,

The remaining problems that confront the anthropologist in this region are, first, what became of all this population as well as of the more northern coastal groups ; second, what were these groups ; and, third, did the remains of the Calusa group merge with parts of the Seminole tribe.

Of course we know of their struggles with the Spanish and their partial deportation ; but it seems strange that such a large population, not only of the west coast but of other parts of Florida, should have completely disappeared since the Spanish connections with the Peninsula.³⁴

The most extensive work that has yet been done in Florida archaeology was that undertaken by Clarence B. Moore who published accounts of his investigations from 1894-1918 in the *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*. His work covered practically the whole of the west coast from Pensacola to the Ten Thousand Islands and the St. Johns River mounds. It was a monumental task, particularly in the value of the collections of skeletons and skulls and pottery he made from the mounds, which serve as the basis for the detailed study of the archaeology of the state. His conclusions had *to* do principally with burials and pottery and it is necessary to mention some of them, not only because of the importance of his work, but because of the value of his collections as keys in the study of the aborigines of Florida.

He found the shell deposits of the southwestern coast of great interest as monuments of the aborigines, but their contents offered him little reward for his investigations. The sand mounds of the southern coast were mainly for domiciliary purposes, and those that contained burials yielded but few artiffracts and little pottery. The failure to place earthenware with the dead was attributed to the fact that the custom did not

³⁴ *Ibid.*

obtain there. Moore wrote in 1905: "An attempt to duplicate a discovery such as Mr. Cushing's would resemble a search for a needle in a hay-stack."⁵⁵

He found Wyman's investigations among the sand mounds of the St. Johns to have been superficial. While objects of European origin, such as glass, bells, and buttons were found, they were largely intrusive and most of the mounds were of pre-columbian times. Here the custom of burying the most valued possessions with the dead did prevail, although in a few mounds sherds and earthenware were entirely absent. Moore's work was so thorough in this region that he could write in 1894:

We are of the opinion that no extended notice of the river mounds can ever again be written, and we sincerely hope that others may be induced to take up and to publish reports of the mounds of the east coast, of the west coast, and of the interior, that the archaeology of Florida may be redeemed from the obscurity that has hitherto characterized it.⁵⁶

Moore's investigations along the east coast corroborated the conclusions of A. E. Douglass that most of the mounds were pre-columbian since the objects connected with white civilization were entirely superficial. His investigations in Duval County along the St. Johns between Jacksonville and the sea led him to conclude :

It is evident that this part of the river sustained a considerable population in former times, rendered possible, perhaps, by the great abundance of oysters in the waters near the river's mouth, where the low marshes are still studded with shell-heaps

⁵⁵Clarence B. Moore, "Miscellaneous Investigations in Florida", *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, Second Series, XIII, Part 2, Philadelphia, 1905, p. 304.

⁵⁶Moore, "Certain Sand Mounds of the St. John's River, Florida," *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, Second Series, X, Part 2, Philadelphia, 1894, p. 246.

and a few years back contained deposits of great size."

In his work along the St. Johns Moore studied copper objects especially and concluded that the copper found with objects of European make was almost universally not copper but brass, and that brass did not occur with the original deposits of copper in mounds that otherwise contained only objects of unquestioned aboriginal origin. The workmanship of the copper along the St. Johns was found to be aboriginal and its production was also aboriginal, as he showed by proofs of a mechanical, archaeological, and chemical nature. This copper Moore held to be derived from various sources, but the main supply was obtained from the Lake Superior region. This, therefore, indicates that the aborigines of the St. Johns were in contact with the northern Indians and possibly had more knowledge of workmanship in copper than is generally supposed."

Probably the greatest contribution Clarence B. Moore made, besides his exhaustive investigation of several hundred mounds, was his collection of pottery, the detailed study of which in relation to the pottery of neighboring regions might lead to a greater knowledge of the life of the aborigines. In 1901, after his investigation along the northwest coast, he wrote:

Little of interest but earthenware has come from the mounds and cemeteries lately explored by us, but of earthenware a most striking collection has been obtained. This ware is purely aboriginal in style, no trace of European influence appearing in its make or decoration, which latter is largely sym-

"Moore, "Certain River Mounds of Duval County, Florida," *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, Second Series, X, Part 4, Philadelphia, 1896, p. 449;

"Moore, "Certain Sand Mounds of the St. John's River Florida", p. 241.

bolical. A mixture of cultures is plainly apparent in this ware.³⁹

The early inhabitants of the peninsula were ignorant of pottery but

Ample proofs are found that centuries of pottery making preceded the coming of the whites and this fact coupled with that of the absence of pottery in the inferior strata of many of the accumulations goes to show that the peninsula had been occupied for a long period.⁴⁰

In his study of the Moore collection Holmes concluded in 1894:

In general the pottery of the shell deposits appears to be rude, while that of the mounds and usually that scattered over dwelling sites, is of a higher grade, often exhibiting neat finish, varied and refined forms and tasteful decorations.⁴¹

There were vessels for use in all the domestic operations and there were others for ceremonial occasions and for burial with the dead. In the burial deposits the pottery was often very fragmentary, mere sherds, due no doubt to the poverty or the customs of the Indians, but other mounds had whole vessels. The fragments, however, show the "killing" of pots by the perforation of the base to free the spirit to accompany the dead person, or the breaking of them to prevent usefulness to robbers bold enough to desecrate the grave for the store of utensils. But Moore held that the perforation was for the purpose of killing the vessel rather than protection against marauders. There was also freak ware made especially for burial purposes, either in imitation of real vessels with open

³⁹Moore, "Certain Aboriginal Remains of the Northwest Florida Coast," *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, Second Series, XI, Part 4, p. 496.

⁴⁰W. H. Holmes, "Earthenware of Florida," *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, Second Series, X, Part 1, Philadelphia, 1894, p. 110.

⁴¹*Ibid.*, 106.

bases, or rude and eccentric forms which would be of no use to anyone. The use of the figured stamp with a variety of figured surfaces in finish and decoration was common in Florida.

In general there are three types of wares found in Florida, the Florida ware proper, which "is more of its kind than is any other of its aboriginal productions";⁴² the South Appalachian stamped ware; and the Gulf coast ware. This outside influence probably came through trade for Moore wrote:

On the whole we are inclined to believe that the best ware found in the peninsula was exceptional and perhaps got there through barter . . . Had the natives of the peninsula possessed vessels of the highest grade in great numbers, we believe, in one way or another, more indication of it would come to light.⁴³

At any rate in

material and decoration the pottery of the Florida northwest coast averages far above that of such mounds in peninsular Florida in which earthenware is met with.⁴⁴

And it is here that the influence from Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia was the greatest. But

Superior as the earthenware of the northwest Florida coast to most of that of the peninsula, it does not excel a few of the finest specimens met with by us in the mounds of the St. Johns River.⁴⁵

Thus the two regions nearest the outside influence had a superior quality in their earthenware which is in accord with the importation theory.

But it is not possible here to summarize the work of

⁴²Moore, "Certain Sand Mounds of the St. Johns River Florida", p. 246.

⁴³Moore, "Certain Aboriginal Remains of the Northwest Florida Coast", *Journal of the Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia*, Second Series, XII, Part 2, Philadelphia, 1902, p. 352.

⁴⁴*Ibid.*, 351.

⁴⁵*Ibid.*

Clarence B. Moore. It is more the hope that this brief study may lead others to similar work in Florida. The plea for investigations that may clear up the doubt and controversy concerning the aborigines of Florida cannot be repeated too often. Thus far the great contributions have come from experts who have come from outside the state. What is Florida going to do to enable someone in the future to write more fully concerning the aborigines of Florida?

The need of expert investigation of these mounds should be obvious. Too many mounds are still being destroyed by amateur diggers, too much valuable evidence being lost. There is a wealth of information still locked up in the mud and sand off the Florida coast and inland too. What fascinating stories are yet to be written about the prehistory of Florida, as the material is unearthed. Floridians can best contribute by locating new mounds, carefully mapping and measuring them, and then cooperate with competent anthropologists with financial aid for scientific excavation. The interest of anthropologists has been shown in the contributions they have made in getting at the truth about the aborigines of Florida. It is now time for the scientific and historical organizations of Florida to come to their aid in complete and unselfish cooperation that the prehistory of the State may be written.

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