

**PRIMITIVE
MAN IN OHIO**

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Primitive man in Ohio by Warren K. Moorehead

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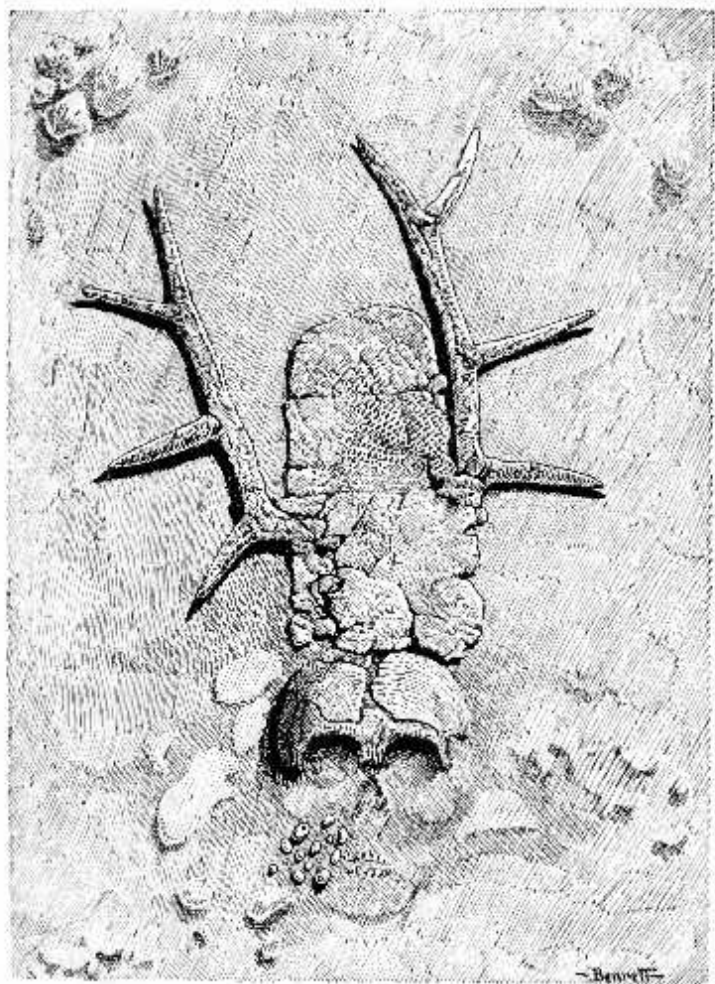


FIG. 1.—Head-dress of skeleton, No. 248, consisting of copper antlers, Effigy Mound, Hopewell's Group, Ross County, Ohio. See page 194.

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BY

WARREN K. MOOREHEAD

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AUTHOR OF "FORT ANCIENT, THE GREAT EXHIBITION,
EARLYWORK OF OHIO," ETC.

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PREFACE.

For many years the great majority of readers upon American archæology and ethnology have believed in the existence throughout the Mississippi valley of a nation called, for want of a better name,¹ "The Mound Builders." Hasty explorations of tumuli and enclosures in various parts of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys have been made by those desiring to further the popular belief. Books and numerous articles have been published in which the imagination was permitted to range unchecked. Statements were made without proper authority, speculations freely indulged in, and hypotheses were built upon foundations as unstable as those of sand. As a natural result, many persons were led to attribute a high degree of civilization to the mound-building tribes of the Mississippi valley. Fine relics or carved images taken from the mounds, the significance of which the collector could not satisfactorily explain, were accepted as evidence in support of the high status of these people. In spite of investigations and publications upon the part of learned institutions and private individuals, tending to dispel such deceptions, many intelligent people still retain false impressions while reading works that treat of primitive man.

¹ We are in favor of employing Dr. D. G. Brinton's term, "The American Race." See pp. 17 and 18, *The American Race*, New York.

It is the purpose of our book to do away with certain of these illusions. In attempting this we are aware that a herculean task has been undertaken. But the time has arrived when men prefer facts to flights of fancy. We are therefore quite confident that our material, so carefully collected and thoughtfully weighed, will not be cast aside and its place usurped by the rash statements of hasty and incompetent investigators. Why there should be so much speculation and uncertainty concerning the life of our aborigines is inexplicable to us. No question of equal importance could have been more easily determined had the early writers given as much care and patience to mound exploration as is given at the present time.

Some writers have misrepresented and distorted field testimony to uphold theories previously formed. As an illustration of this, and of the great damage that it has done, we need but call the attention of our readers to the famous "Holy Stone" of Newark.

An enthusiastic archaeologist resided many years ago at Newark, Ohio. He was thoroughly in love with his work, and his life's ambition was to discover the origin of man upon the American continent. He believed the lost ten tribes of Israel to be the ancestors of the mound-building tribes. After opening mound after mound and finding no evidence whatever in support of his hypothesis, he became desperate. He purchased a Hebrew Bible and primer, and shortly afterwards there was discovered in a stone box, in a mound that he had investigated, a slab, on

one side of which was a likeness of Moses, and on the reverse an abridged form of the ten commandments. The stone attracted world-wide attention, and many publications were issued describing it. No one doubted the genuineness of the affair until after the man's death. In cleaning up his office the administrator found in a small rear room bits of slate with attempts at carving Hebrew characters upon them. They also found a fair copy of the wood-cut of Moses used as a frontispiece in the testament.

The influence of this over-zealous deceiver has gone throughout the length and breadth of our land, and one may still hear at lectures upon American archaeology statements concerning the Indian's descent from the Jew, basing such assertions upon the testimony of the supposed "Holy Stone of Newark," which, as is above shown, was simply a counterfeit.

The moral requires no explanation. One "popular" book by a superficial observer has a bad influence and does more harm than can be remedied by much honest conscientious endeavor on the part of workers in the field. Those who have endured the rains of spring, the heat of summer, the chilly snows and sleet of winter, living in thin tents or barn-like sheds alongside the tumuli that must be studied inch by inch with pick and shovel, have a right to cry out in honest indignation when the reports of men who have never thrust a spade into the structures they attempt to describe pretend to be conclusive on this subject.

Many volumes upon American archaeology in the

last few years have been written by field workers and consequently have a value far in excess of previous publications. Most writers seem to agree of late that the various tribes and clans which formerly inhabited the river valleys of the State of Ohio were alike in color and general habits, having certain variations in stature common to all races, and differing in many of the details of tribal organization and domestic life. Their languages were unlike, it is thought, and undoubtedly they warred against each other.

In writing a complete description of each mound, repetitions are unavoidable. A mound may be more or less like its fellow structures, and our desire not to overlook any detail in the position of objects and skeletons has led us to follow one general rule in writing the report of mound contents. The rule is, "Note everything."

No attempt is made to give any description of the earthworks found in the different parts of Ohio; such an effort would not only swell a volume to unwieldy proportions, but would be entirely foreign to our purpose.

In every excavation careful field notes were made on the spot, and each night the result of the day's work was fully written out. The text of this volume is the sum of those records.

The total number of mounds, graves, and cemeteries opened during the four seasons of exploration was one hundred and seven. The field numbers are retained in the text, when necessary, but not in their regular order, as some portions of the country were worked at different periods during the years in which