

THE FORT ANCIENT ASPECT

*Its Cultural and Chronological Position in
Mississippi Valley Archaeology*

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burial and was associated with copper beads, brass spirals, and a pottery vessel of the Madisonville type that has four strap handles. Brass beads of the rolled cylindrical form, brass finger rings on skeletons, and fragments of sheet brass were also recovered.

Four iron adze blades were found at the site; two of these were 3 feet and 4 feet deep, respectively, in ash pits. An iron bead, associated with copper beads and pendants, and an iron sword guard, discovered on the chest of a female skeleton, were also taken from the site.

Globular, blue, glass beads were found with a burial and in ash pits. It is significant that among the objects denoting European contact there are none of the silver ornaments such as were common in the latter part of the eighteenth century and which do not appear in sites of earlier periods, particularly in sites of the period before 1700.

Regarding the possibility that this European material belonged to a later occupation than the Madisonville Focus, Willoughby said:

The recovery of iron objects or brass or glass beads, from at least nine cache-pits and five graves, seems to indicate beyond question that this site was not abandoned by the Indians till after their contact with Europeans either directly or through their Indian neighbors; but the scarcity of such objects, as well as their nature, also indicates that the site was deserted long before the arrival of English settlers.²⁰

POTTERY

This site has produced the most abundant collection of pottery, and the types have generally been looked upon as the characteristic Fort Ancient pottery. Willoughby stated:

Perhaps no group of artifacts from this site is more distinctive than the pottery. A comparison with that from other village sites in the Little Miami Valley, however, notably those near Newtown, and certain others at or near Fort Ancient, as well as from such widely separated localities as the Feurt site near Portsmouth and the Gartner site near Chillicothe in the Scioto Valley, shows that it all belongs to one group.²¹

Soon after the Madisonville Society began systematic excavation of the site, a publication by Charles F. Low appeared, which served to establish definitely the types of pottery at the component.²² As has been mentioned in another section of this study, Moorehead pointed out the resemblance between the pottery from the Anderson Focus and that from Madisonville and suggested a relationship.²³ W. H. Holmes classified the pottery as the "Miami Valley ware" and placed it under his "Ohio Valley pottery," which designation was primarily geographical.^{23a} His description of the pottery deserves to be quoted as the first adequate analysis:

²⁰ Hooton and Willoughby, 1920, p. 73.

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 80.

²² Low, 1880.

²³ See p. 102.

^{23a} H. C. Shetrone is the authority for the statement that the vessels illustrated by Holmes on Pl. CLXI are from the state of Mississippi.