

HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS AND THE BUZZARD CULT IN FLORIDA

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Originally Published in
The Florida Historical Quarterly
Vol. 24, No. 4

1946

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FLORIDA
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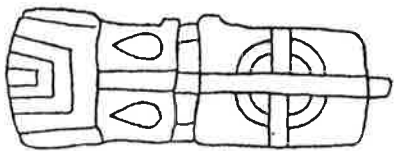
HISTORIC ARTIFACTS AND THE "BUZZARD CULT" IN FLORIDA

by JOHN WALLACE GRIFFIN

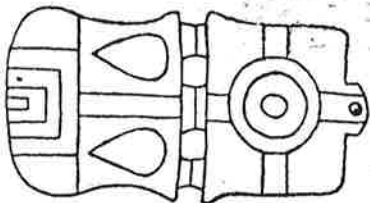
An extensive literature on the archaeology of Florida has been amassed over a considerable number of years. By far the greater part of this literature is purely descriptive, and it is the purpose of this paper to take some of the older materials and interpret them in the light of current archaeological knowledge; knowledge which has advanced at an almost breathtaking rate in the past decade. For our purposes we shall select seven related artifacts from southern Florida; made of gold, silver, brass, stone and wood.

The small gold ornament, shown as figure 2 in the accompanying plate, was described by A. E. Douglass in 1890. It was found on an island in the Kissimmee river near Fort Bassinger (Basinger) and is two and a quarter inches long, one and a quarter inches broad and the thickness of a half dollar. Tests showed it to be sixty percent gold, thirty percent copper and ten percent silver; doubtlessly representing a post-contact source of metal. It consists of two main segments separated by a depressed area containing two holes. One of the segments bears a projection, bored for suspension. The obverse is decorated with incised lines as shown in figure 2, while the reverse has incised crescents in the upper left and lower right quarters, and incised vertical lines in the other two quarters.

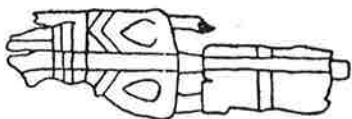
C. B. Moore, the wholesale digger of Florida archaeology, discovered two small metal ornaments with burials in the Gleason mound on the east bank of the Banana river in Brevard county. One of them is of brass (figure 4) and is about one and three-quarters inches long, while the other (figure 6) is of silver and



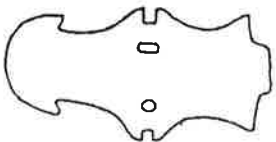
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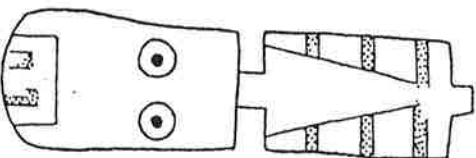
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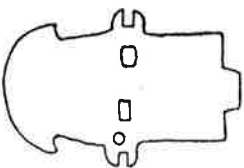
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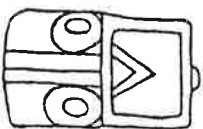
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