

REFERENCE

A PREVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY
IN THE
TEN THOUSAND ISLANDS
OF FLORIDA

by Frederick W. Sleight

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form the bottom of the rather wide recess. Through this rock and just over the center of the entrance to the shaft had been cut a hole two inches in diameter. This was nicely formed and the edges smoothed. One wonders if this could have symbolized the sipapu.

Their stone implements consisted of rather crude spear and arrow points, scrapers and knives, poorly shaped stone axes and hammers, smoothing and polishing stones, grooved and flat metates, round mortars, and rectangular manos.

Deer and turkey bones furnished them materials for bone awls and needles; no articles of wood or textiles had survived.

Pottery varied from plain coarse soot-blackened ollas through smooth and indented coiled ollas and pitchers, to ollas, pitchers and bowls in black on white and black on red. The most abundant ware was the indented coiled in ollas and pitchers. Black on white was the dominant decorated ware and shows their best technique with a very limited amount of black on red.

The pueblos of this region are especially interesting because of the peculiar features found in their kivas, and because of the myths of the Hopi that link them with the traditional homes of the ancestors of the Snake and other clans of their people.

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Pueblo I on Segazlin Mesa.

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A PREVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE TEN THOUSAND ISLANDS OF FLORIDA

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Some forty miles south of the present city of Fort Meyers on the southwest coast of Florida is the beginning of a series of islands known as the Ten Thousand Islands. Actually, there must be forty thousand of them. This mass of coastal keys extends southward as far as Cape Sable, making a string of isles some eighty miles in linear extent, although seldom over five to ten miles in width. Here the mainland is not too stable as it represents the western margin of the famous Everglades and the Great Cypress Swamp. Recent geologic disturbances, in addition to the work of coral reef building, have resulted in the present islands, while work of wind and waves has had its part in fashioning their outlines. Most of the islands are very tropical in nature and are covered by great walls of mangroves, vines, and wild palms. On such elevated areas as Key Marco soil conditions permit the growth of long leaf pine; however, this is not the rule for this region.

Interest of archaeological nature in this region began in 1895 when Frank H. Cushing headed the Pepper-Hearst Archaeological Expedition from the University of Pennsylvania and the Smithsonian Institution to ascertain the importance of finds of "Indian relics" on Key Marco reported by workmen there. In his report, Cushing tells us that the islands in that area were actually covered with aboriginal remains in the form of great shell accumulations. But there were not the usual shell refuse mounds so typical of the coast of North America. Here were to be seen extensive terraced mounds, "courts" flooded in such a way as to allow passage of dugout canoes right into the village areas, long canal systems of shell, and shell break-walls. On his way to Marco, Cushing surveyed numbers of such sites and astonished the archaeological world of that time with his reports. He also reported that whole islands had been formed by the aboriginal inhabitants of these Florida islands.

Even more stirring than these reports were the actual finds that were made within the excavations proper at Key Marco. The area worked was a low, muck-filled basin surrounded by the shell formations of that end of the island. When work began, the basin was partially filled with water, but several days of dipping brought the water down sufficiently to begin digging. In Cushing's estimation, it soon became apparent that they were working in an old "water court" that at one time had been connected with a channel that led out to the open water between the islands. The discovery of charred posts in position along little tongues or projections of shell that radiated out in the court made firm in the minds of the workers that this was once a pile-dweller settlement surrounding a shallow salt water basin or "Court." From all indications the long narrow dwellings had been so built up on piles and out on the shell benches to facilitate the entry of dugout canoes in between the houses. This, of course, would have made a safe place to keep the canoes while not in use as well as a

strategic place for the entrapment of fish. In the report of the Gentleman of Elvas, writing for the expedition of De Soto, we find mention of Florida Indians living in such manner. The memoir to the King and Council of the Indies states, "On Wednesday, the nineteenth day of June, the Governor entered Pacaha, and took quarters in the town where Caccique was accustomed to reside. It was enclosed and very large. In the towers and palisades were many loopholes. . . . Where the Governor stayed was a great lake near to the enclosure, and water entered a ditch that well nigh went around the town. From the River Grande to the lake was a canal, through which the fish came into it, and where the chief kept them for his eating and pastime. With nets that were found in the place, as many were taken as need required; and however much might be the casting there were never any lack of them."

Throughout the court were encountered numerous types of piles and timbers used in the construction of the adjacent dwellings. These timbers were fashioned from palm wood, pine, and cypress. Where unaffected by the elements, it was often plainly evident that they had been squared and notched for resting upon each other. Traces of cane matting as well as clays and marsh grasses were abundant and gave evidence of the manner in which these structures may have been covered.

The site was notable for many fine examples of wood carving. Outstanding among such traits were the finds of four-footed stools made from flat slabs of wood slightly hollowed on the top surface in a shallow basin manner. They are comparable to stools of the Antilles in almost every feature. What pottery was found was generally broken and represented crude cooking wares with occasional decorative features along the rims. However, this trait was of little importance in this site when compared to the abundance of wooden utensils that was found. Cups, trays, bowls, and mortars were all made from wood. Indicative of the types of boats used by these people were the remains of several toy dugout canoes. That compound dugouts were used by lashing two boats together with a platform midway between is shown in the finding of such remains among the miniature boats. One paddle was unearthed near the mouth of the court's inlet. In addition to these objects pertaining to sailing and fishing were found anchors of bound bunches of shells, fishing floats, stays for nets, and float pegs. Fish hooks of forked twigs pointed with deer bone also typified the finds.

In a region where the bow and arrow has always been thought of as typical, it is interesting to note that no bows and arrows were discovered by Cushing in all his excavations. However, the weapon that seems to have been typical here is one that was so widely used in early times in such areas as South America, Central America, and our own American Southwest, the throwing stick or atlatl, as it is termed in Aztec. At Marco five such throwing sticks were uncovered. They were all the so-called spur type instruments having a hook-like projection at their smaller ends which fitted into sockets of spear shafts. Some of the specimens had only one finger hole while others had a double finger grasp. Nearly all the instruments were delicately carved and polished.

One of these weapons warrants special mention as it is rather unique for North America. This was a single fingered instrument measuring nineteen inches in length, and it was probably made from the heart of an ironwood branch. Very skillfully adapted to the smaller end of the piece was carved a rabbit in a sitting position with his tail so made as to form the propelling spur into which the spear shafts fitted. A number of arrows for the throwing sticks were uncovered, all of which measured four feet in length and were tipped with harder wooden points.

In a book recently published by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, INDIAN ARTS IN THE UNITED STATES, are illustrated two fine examples of the woodcarver's art from Cushing's excavations at Marco. One specimen is a small deer head so well executed that Cushing himself said that it was the "most perfectly preserved example of combined carving and painting" that they discovered. It has the expression of a startled doe. The eyes were

formed of polished inlaid sections of tortoise shell, and the big natural ears, which are separate pieces, were held in place by peg holes and string attachments, thus allowing a lifelike movement of these parts. White, black, blue-gray, and dark blue were the colors utilized to make this piece the exotic specimen that it is. In addition to this figurehead of the deer there were found in the excavations within the "Court of the Pile Dwellers" numerous other heads and figures of such animals as the wolf (?), wild cat, alligator, bear, turtle, pelican, fish-hawk, and owls. From all indications, too, with each of these faunal figures was associated a full size human face mask having the essential features of the animal figurehead with which it was found. That these sets were used in ceremonials of some nature has been suggested by their similarity to certain remains uncovered in Mexico where such combinations of masks and figure pieces were used together.

That outside influence has been felt in this area is evident from close study of the artifacts unearthed. From paintings, carvings, or actual specimens found at Marco, archaeology has been given evidence of many traits such as the atlatl, plaited leg and wrist bands, inlaid ear plugs, war clubs, lip pins, etc. All have their counterparts in Mexican, South American, and Antillian Archaeology. In his lecture before the American Philosophical Society in 1896, Cushing summed up his remarks concerning origins of culture in the Ten Thousand Islands by saying, "It seems to me highly probable that not from the mainland, but from the sea, not from the north, but from the far south, the primitive or earliest key dwellers, whoever they were, came or were wafted in the beginning. . . . I believe rather, that here and there all through the waters washing the shores of lands southward from Florida—of Cuba, of Yucatan, of northern South America—we shall shortly find, unless the maps deceive me, evidence of a former very wide distribution in that direction of the key-dweller phase of life."

Since the time of that lecture little concentrated work has been conducted in the Ten Thousand Islands. Under the proposed plan of the Committee on Archaeology of the Florida Historical Society, surveys and excavation of several large sites in the island groups is anticipated when necessary funds are obtained. In accordance with this plan, the author a year ago spent considerable time in the islands just south of Marco, where Cushing worked, and managed to locate through intense surveys in mangrove and palm jungles eight new archaeological sites of outstanding size. To date, there has been noted only one burial site and that is a sand burial mound typical of the Southeastern area. It is almost circular in shape, is made from fine yellow sand, and stands some fourteen feet above the jungle terrain. It might be of interest to note that while carrying on these surveys, the author made surface collections of broken pottery sherds, shell work, etc., and found that the pottery from the sand mound differed considerably from that found in the other seven sites which were extensive shell habitation and refuse areas. In the sand mound the pottery was similar to that found inland in Florida and had a typical thin wall and fine paste character, while that collected over the other seven shell sites was a crude, thick-walled ware having no ornamentation and often was roughly smoothed on both interior and exterior. Although Cushing reported semi-decorated sherds, none was found by the author.

All the shell sites were like those recorded by Cushing and Moore. The first one surveyed is located some eight miles southeast of Marco in an unchartered area of the islands. The site was constructed of shell, but as yet its true area is a question as the jungle growth is too dense for measuring work. However, the author's survey revealed that the site is made up of a large elevated area, flat on top, and having two sides that drop at a sharp angle into the open water nearby. Then radiating back from this is a series of low, wide shell ridges that extend some hundred yards off into the jungle to the east where they appear to dive down into the muck floor of the swamp. Partially encircling all of this is another wall of shell that well may have been a primitive sea wall which protected most of the site from the waves of the open waters to the south and west. This wall is, on an average, about twelve feet across and curves for a distance of some two hundred and fifty yards. Although

water action has pulled this mass down some, it still maintains a height of about three to four feet above the water line. Like the other shell ridges, this embankment tended to taper down and became lost to sight at its extremity. The whole site might be compared to an incomplete giant "D" with the major section of the mound being in the lower right angle with ridges extending upward and across the face of the "D."

No discussion of this area would be complete without mention of the shell implements so typical of these sites. Among these are scrapers, drills, knives, drinking cups, and the ever prevalent implement that has been determined as a primitive hoe. In most cases the shell used for these artifacts was the large conch shell called **Busycon perversa**. These hoes have well defined holes for the insertion of a wood handle and thong wrapping, all of which have disintegrated. There seem to be two classes of these tools: those possessing a single hafting hole and those having two such perforations. In all cases the base end of the hoes has been beveled down to a flat blade-edge some inch to an inch and a half in cutting surface to make for more effective blows.

Several hoes picked up by the author on one of the larger sites south of Marco illustrate still a third technique in the hafting of hoes. Among these specimens it was noted that three holes were made: one above the shoulder and two at opposite positions in the outer body whorl. To prove the workability of such implements, Mr. Charles Willanghby and Mr. Clarence B. Moore a number of years ago rehafted several such hoes and found them to be sturdy, workable tools.

This then, is the state of archaeological data from the southwest shores of Florida. The fascinating finds that have been made, in addition to our knowledge of the many unexplored prehistoric habitation areas, should prove an incentive to develop this horizon and thus add one more colorful page to the story of America's past. This is a somewhat forgotten area of North America, and may prove to be a most important link in the passage of culture between the United States and the West Indies, and even Mexico.

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INDIAN MUSIC OF THE SOUTHWEST

JANE CHESKY

The first study of Indian music in the Southwest was begun over fifty years ago when J. W. Fewkes made phonograph recordings of Zuni and Hopi ceremonial songs. Since his successful inauguration of this method of preserving unwritten music, records have been made of songs of most of the New Mexico and Arizona Indian groups. These have enabled students to transcribe the music in modern notation with far greater accuracy than would otherwise be possible. Furthermore, since Indian music in its aboriginal forms is in many places being transformed or forgotten, recording is the one satisfactory way to retain the old songs. Modern notation can do so only to a very limited extent, for there is no way to pen the vocal quality and the tonal effect of this music as it is sung.

In common with the aboriginal music of the rest of North America, that of this area consists of unharmonized melodies sung solo or in unison. Indian ears and voices are not trained to an artificially fixed pitch standard; they possess no instruments tuned consistently to the same tones. They have evolved no system of notation, no scales, and no theory of composition. Songs are "dreamed", and taught to others by rote in the manner of folk music. The ability of singers is often judged by the number of songs they can sing, and men sometimes memorize hundreds.

Ceremonial songs are frequently traditional within a group and are taught to successive generations by the old singers. It is scarcely conceivable that over a period of many years these songs should be preserved absolutely intact. Several facts indicate that they are not. Variations in repeated renditions of a song by the same singer and in renditions of the same song by different singers have been recorded. Also, the very complexity of some of the Hopi Kachina songs; for instance, suggests that they must have developed from a simpler stage. Lastly, modern original songs dreamed by unschooled Indian composers sometimes show the unintentional acquisition of the white man's tonal syntax. All this evidence of instability in the music can probably be attributed to the lack of notation more than to studied disregard for traditional pattern.

Music plays a varying role among Indian groups. In the Southwest, it is everywhere ritually important and more than a mere accompaniment to ceremony. Among the Papago, for example, the songs themselves are often thought to be endowed with magic. These can be sung only by certain persons qualified with the right kind of power to do so. Others, however, are freely exchanged between the tribes, and because the musical style of each group is so distinctive, these intrusive songs can often be allocated as to donor.

In attempting to define the special characteristics of these styles, students of Indian music have shown that differences exist in the kinds of songs, the