Many professional archaeologists do not read, or are aware of, avocational or nonprofessional journals and the reports they contain. Thus, they often miss information which could illuminate the understanding of many Midwestern cultures. For this reason, a recap of the Hatfield mound excavation, published forty years ago, is presented here as an important addition to Adena studies.

The Hatfield Mound

The Hatfield Mound was excavated in the summer of 1971 by a group of avocational archaeologists led by Dudley Bravard of Yellow Springs, Ohio. The excavation was done care-fully and professionally, and was published in the 1972 and 1975 issues of Artifacts, (Bravard 1972 - 1975). The Artifacts Society journal was not widely distributed throughout the archaeological community at that time but because of the importance of the Hatfield Mound, it is re-presented in this issue of the Ohio Archaeologist with permission of Dudley Bravard. This is not a verbatim report, but is a summary which includes new pictures of the pertinent parts of the excavation. It is hoped that re-reporting this important Adena mound will further stimulate research of one of Ohio's most important cultures. Comments and observations — and errors — are those of the present author and not Dudley Bravard.

The Excavation

The Hatfield Mound is located north of Xenia, Greene County, Ohio, near what is known as "Oldtown" a place of great importance during the Indian wars in Ohio. Despite its location, the mound had nothing to do with the Indian wars.

Excavation began in June 1971 and continued until winter set in. The mound was slightly more than 3 feet high and 40 feet in diameter and nearly circular. A grid system was staked out and the mound laid out in five foot squares — a 10 inch wall being left between the grids.

Feature 1 was in the approximate center of the mound at a depth of around 20 inches. It was a single adult male burial — apparently placed sometime after the original mound had been built and perhaps in a second addition to the mound. It was placed with head pointed to the north and was lying on a layer of ashes, cracked rock and charcoal. No artifacts were found.

Feature 2 contained four adults about 15 inches deep on the natural floor of the mound. Two were oriented northeast and two southwest. With them were found a bone awl, a bone chisel, and two keyhole slate pendants — one broken.

Feature 3 was the burial of a child poorly preserved. With the burial were two Adena points.

Comments on Adena Studies

The Hatfield Mound contains numerous Adena artifacts. They were located on either side of the shoulders near the ears.

Recap.

The Hatfield Mound appears to be a typical early Adena mound built over a circular house pattern of single male burial — for whom the mound was probably constructed — was placed in a sub-floor pit in the center of the mound. Ancillary multiple burials were placed away from the mound center and a shallow burial was placed above the central feature. Once in the mound's early history a new cap was added and probably two individuals were at that time buried.

Perhaps the most unusual and important feature of the Hatfield Mound are the wolf jaw spatulas which are among the rarest of all Adena artifacts. They were found at either side of the mound.

A similar spatula was found with a male burial at the Ayers Mound in Kentucky. The individual at Ayres was in his twenties and his front teeth had been removed to accommodate the spatula. In the Delmarva area of the East Coast, an Adena male burial with upper front teeth removed was discovered, however no spatula was found with him. So far as is known, Hatfield is the only mound where two spatulas were found. Strangely, the Hatfield individual did not have any of his teeth removed.

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Comments on Adena Studies

The Hatfield Mound: A Re-publication of a Greene County Adena Mound Excavation and Comments on Adena Culture Studies

by

Robert N. Converse

Ohio Archaeologist

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Figure 1 (Converse) Scene of mound during excavation.

Figure 3 (Converse) Adena male from the Ayers Mound in Kentucky. The front teeth have been removed to accommodate a wolf jaw spatula. (Converse 2003).

Figure 2 (Converse) Floor plan of Hatfield Mound.

Figure 4 (Converse) Central sub-floor burial. Note tubular pipe on pelvis and spatulas at each side of skull. Leg bones were covered with red ocher.

Figure 5 (Converse) Flint and bone artifacts.
Figure 6 (Converse) Two wolf jaw spatulas.

Figure 7 (Converse) Blocked end tubular pipe.

Figure 8 (Converse) Pair of Adena keyhole slate pendants.

Figure 9 (Converse) 235 marginella shell beads.