

date, and even with a suggestion of the plastic qualities of Gupta sculpture. Both reliefs are in creamy white sandstone; both must be of north Indian origin (Rājputāna or Bundelkhaṇḍ), the first may very possibly have been obtained from the river bed at Mathurā. The University Museum example measures thirty-five centimetres in length, Mr. Heeramaneck's twenty-one centimetres.

The three deities represented are respectively patrons of Success, Fortune, and Wealth. Kubera is one of the Four Great Kings, Regent of the North, and chief of the Yakṣas. Śrī-Lakṣmī is a goddess of abundance whose significance and iconography I have discussed elsewhere*; I may add to the already cited evidences of her connection with the Yakṣas, the fact that all four of the Great Kings are called Yakṣas in Bharhut inscriptions, hence as daughter of Dhṛtarāṣṭra she is again seen to be a Yakṣī. Gaṇeśa too is iconographically a Yakṣa type, but he is not found in art before the Gupta period and the origins of the formula are rather obscure**. Thus, it would hardly be going too far to speak of these reliefs as "Yakṣa Trinities."

A. K. Coomaraswamy.

5. *The Wheeling Expedition*

AT Beech Bottom, near Wheeling, West Virginia, an archaeological party from the Museum excavated a small Indian mound during July and August with interesting results.

**Early Indian Iconography, II, Śrī-Lakṣmī*, Eastern Art, I, 1929.

**See my *Yakṣas*, Washington 1928, p. 7, and *Gaṇeśa*, Bull. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, No. 154, 1928.

The mound was about seventy feet in diameter and twelve feet high at its summit. A complete segment was uncovered layer by layer until the ground level was reached. Toward the centre of the mound at different levels, various stone implements were found. These comprised well-worked flint blades, some coloured red with ochre, and an unusual number of polished tubular pipes, all probably having been thrown upon the mound while it was being built as offerings to the deceased. No trace whatever of pottery was found. About four and one-half feet below the ground level was the burial which the mound was evidently erected to mark. The skeleton, that of a man about five feet eight inches tall, was not well preserved, but was accompanied by a quantity of various ornaments and jewelry, strings of shells, beads of shell and of copper, as well as flint blades and other stone implements.

There seems little doubt that this burial belonged to the Mound Builder culture, evidences of which have been found at countless sites distributed from Wisconsin to Florida, particularly in Ohio. Despite many popular beliefs, it is now well established that the Mound Builders were not a people preceding the Indians of these regions. The Indians themselves built the mounds, usually to mark the graves of their dead, and in a few there have been found objects of European origin which indicate that some were built after the coming of white men to this continent. One of the



EXCAVATING AN INDIAN MOUND, BEECH BOTTOM, WEST VIRGINIA



A TUBULAR STONE PIPE FROM EXCAVATIONS AT BEECH BOTTOM
WEST VIRGINIA

interesting features of the Beech Bottom Mound was the presence of the long, polished tubular pipes (probably an early form of tobacco pipe) not usual in typical Mound Builder burials, and never before found in such quantity.

The work of excavating was carried on with the generous cooperation of D. H. Wagner, Esq., of the Wheeling Corrugating Company. A full report will appear in a forthcoming number of the Museum Journal.

6. *The Czecho-Slovakian Expedition*

POTTERY vessels, bronze earrings, bracelets, arrowheads and iron knives belonging to a period of culture more than five thousand years old have recently been unearthed by the Joint Central European Expedition of the University Museum and the Peabody Museum, Cambridge, according to word just received from Dr. Vladimir J. Fewkes, field director of the Expedition.

“The second summer’s work of the Expedition,” Dr. Fewkes writes, “has produced a number of interesting and important finds. In the course of our excavations at Lazavice, southwest of Prague, in Czecho-Slovakia we have uncovered objects that point to Slavic burials of the late Bronze and early Iron Age. In addition to this we have carried on extensive digging at Homolka, northwest of Prague where the finds reveal a settlement of people belonging to the so-called Nordic phase of the Eneolithic or earliest Bronze Age period, five thousand years ago. When the whole site has been completely