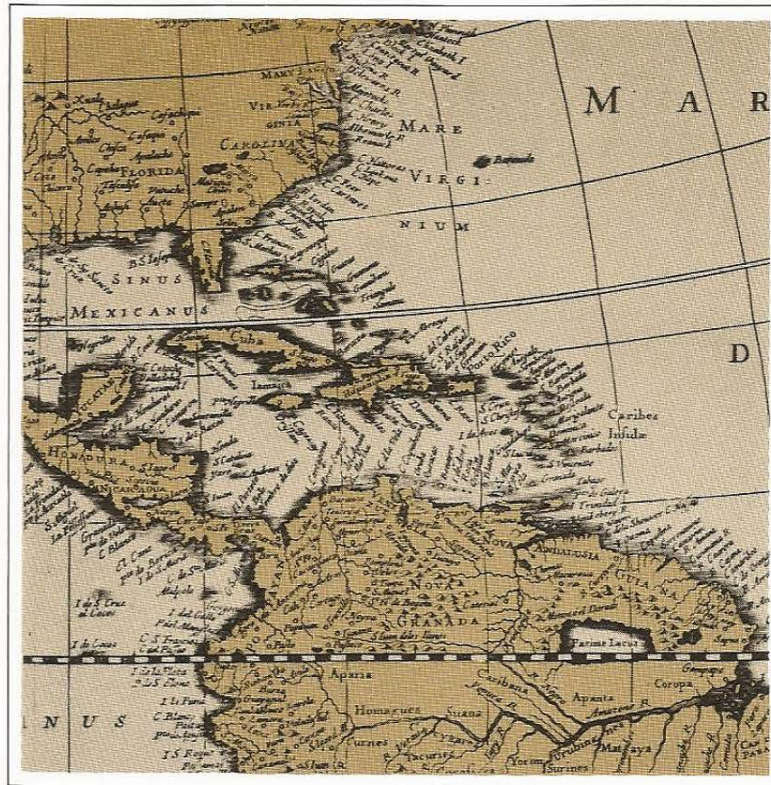


AMERICAN SCENE

THE THOMAS GILCREASE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND ART, TULSA, OKLAHOMA



AMERICAN SCENE

Produced at The Thomas Gilcrease Institute
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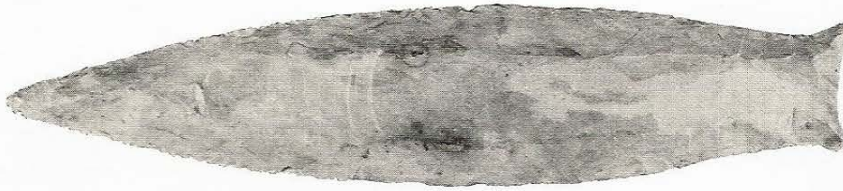
The series of numbers accompanying illustrations are Gilcrease Museum Collection numbers.

Volume XVII



In the first chapter of American Scene, Volume XVII, the concept was established for using the Gilcrease Collections as the vehicle for examination of general human activity in the western half of the world from prehistory to the present day. A quadrental approach, geographically, was devised for this examination and we began it in the northeast. Chapter two is devoted to the southeast quadrant of our hemispheric map. Here we will probe again into history to determine what life was like for the native inhabitant before the arrival of the white man. We will discover what influences the white man had on the native people following that arrival. Then, we will see how both civilizations developed and changed.

The southeast area offers some of the most important and interesting material in the Gilcrease Collections. In the limited space available, the reader will be exposed again to but a small fraction of the varied and vast collection of artifacts, art, and documents in the Gilcrease Institute. The width and breadth of the collection in all areas is obvious; it is not just a collection of quantity but of great quality as well.



CUMBERLAND POINT CA. 11,000 YEARS AGO. (6122.7228)

CHAPTER II, THE SOUTHEAST QUADRANT

Native Statement

As a means of expressing the breadth of the American Indian collections in the Gilcrease Institute, the native statement presents a glimpse into the archaeological phases of this quadrant of the western hemisphere. It carries through the acculturation of natives from the time of their first contact with the Europeans as they made their initial expeditions into the Southeast and continuing up to the present time.

The illustrations represent material from the artifacts, art, and library collections, and are only a minute sampling of the interrelation and vastness of the Institute's holdings.

The southeastern quarter of the United States shared in all of the cultural levels of the rest of the East, and within this quarter lay the centers of development for the last and most complex of these cultures.

The Lithic (Big Game Hunting) Stage is evident in a number of sites in the Southeast, but whether the artifacts represented are quite as old as some in other parts of the continent, particularly the Plains area, remains to be determined. Considerable antiquity is indicated by the presence of fluted points in the Southeast. The Cumberland and Quad points of the Southeast are fluted and are almost certainly more than ten thousand years old and probably much older.

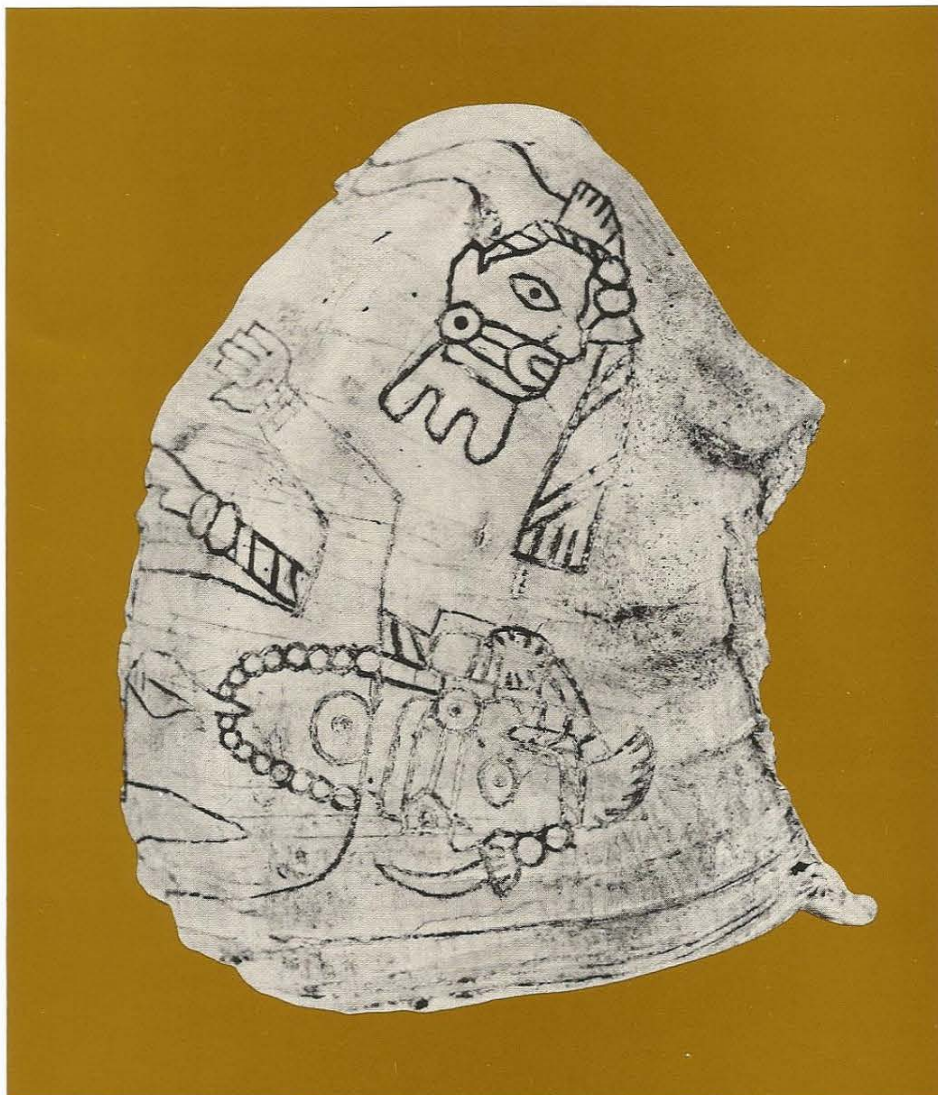
The Archaic (Hunting and Gathering) tradition of the Southeast followed the Big Game Hunting tradition and lasted at least nine thousand years and, in some areas, longer. It is marked by some fine lanceolate-shaped points, and many triangular-shaped points, and ground stone implements. During this period, there was a shift to greater reliance on collecting plant foods and shell fish. Some very deep "kitchen" middens are found along streams. Later in the period, ground and polished stone items were made, and, by about 2300 B.C., pottery was being made.

The centers of distribution of the following **Woodland (Burial Mound) Period** of the Southeast were to the north along the Ohio Valley. Agriculture played a significant part in the Woodland economy, especially the cultivation of maize. The Woodland Period of the Southeast, as well as elsewhere, dates ca. 1000 B.C.-A.D. 500-600.

Despite the northern influence and the fact that many early Woodland sites in the Southeast appear to be of an Archaic variety, the Woodland tradition did grow in the Southeast and furnished a base on which the later Mississippian culture would evolve.

Like the Woodland before it, the Mississippian culture was the result of influence from outside. Maize agriculture in the Woodland era had to come from Mexico—possibly via the Caribbean.

Probably by ca. A.D. 600-700, by whatever influence, great changes began to take place in the Southern Mississippi



ENGRAVED SHELL. MISSISSIPPIAN PERIOD. LEFLORE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA. (SPIRO AREA) (9025.384)



SHELL BEADS. MISSISSIPPIAN PERIOD. LEFLORE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA. (SPIRO AREA) (9025.611)

Valley and to spread over most of the Southeast, as far as the Ohio Valley, and on west to what is now Oklahoma and East Texas. A new function appears in the mounds that were built in this area. Some still were used for burial but they were now usually flat-topped (rather than the round-topped earlier style) and supported structures used as meeting houses or temples. The population grew, and agricultural practices intensified. Villages are found arranged in an orderly fashion and frequently surrounded by stockades. Along with population and

economic changes which came with the Mississippian culture, there were many changes, and quite possibly a greater emphasis in religious practices. By the middle of the period, ca. A.D. 1200-1400, there was a spread of what is referred to as the "Southern Cult." Where large mound groups occur, some of the sites—if not all of them—appear to have centers for this cult. Its presence is indicated in unusual art styles and symbols, some of which appear to have emigrated from northeastern Mexico.

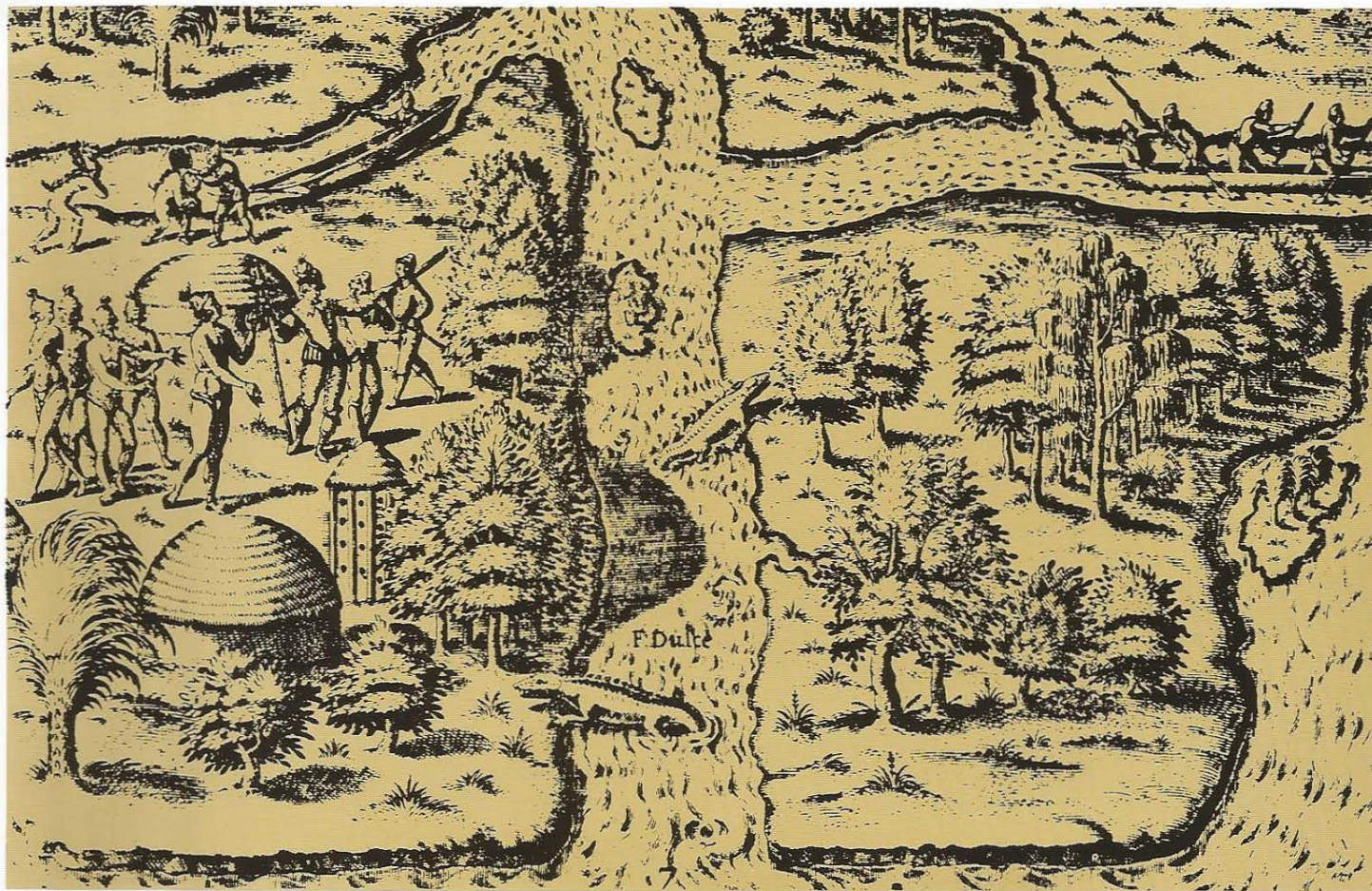
There was heavy use of copper and

shell. As much of the shell came from the Gulf Coast and the copper from the Great Lakes region, it can be safely assumed that extensive trade existed.

Spiro, situated in east central Oklahoma, was one of the outstanding centers of this cult. The influence of this site extended as far west as south central Oklahoma and almost to the Kansas border on the north. Other centers were to be found at such sites as Cahokia in Illinois, Moundsville in Alabama, Etowah in Georgia, as well as other large and small sites scattered over the area.



CERAMIC VESSEL, MISSISSIPPIAN PERIOD, LEFLORE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA. (SPIRO AREA) (5425.7883)



"FLORIDAE AMERICAЕ PROVINCIA" ENGRAVED BY THEODORE DEBRY AFTER JAKUES LEMOYNE DE MORGUES (2475.42)

Charles IX, King of France, ordered René de Laudonnière to set sail, from Le Havre on April 20th, 1564, in an effort to reinforce the French colonists in Florida. On June 23 the expedition reached the River of May (or Saint John's). The French artist Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues was ordered on the expedition for the purpose of drawing maps, land and waterways, the natives and their way of life and "anything else in the country worthy of observation." Le Moyne's own narrative says: "Upon our arrival in New France we found the seashore crowded with native men and women, who kept up large fires. At first we thought it necessary to be on guard against them, but very soon we realized that the last thing in their minds was to harm us." At one point in the journeys of the French colonists, they were in great need of provisions and the narrative says: "They brought us grains of roasted maize, ground into flour, or whole ears of it, smoked lizards or other wild animals which they considered great delicacies, and various kinds of roots, some for

food, others for medicine!"

The Flemish engraver, Theodore de Bry, arranged to purchase Le Moyne's narrative and paintings of Florida from his widow. With the aid of his two sons, de Bry engraved from Le Moyne's paintings the first graphic illustrations of Florida ever to be published. The engraver's *Grands et Petits Voyages* were published over a forty-five year period, between 1590 and 1634. The final edition was published by his sons-in-law, the inheritors of de Bry's publishing business. The engraving shown here is in the 1634 edition from the rare book and manuscript collections of the Gilcrease Library.

It was in the 1500's that the southeastern Creeks first made contact with Europeans — Spanish explorers. By the mid-1600's the Spanish had established around forty missions in Florida and on the Georgia coast and had converted approximately 30,000 Indians. In the meanwhile up the coast, the English colony of Carolina was founded after 1670 as the English probed into Creek territory and the Spanish

mission area. At the same time, Spanish missionaries pushed further north toward the English. Many Creek and Yuchi joined the English in raids on Spanish missions and by 1690 the missions and converts on the Georgia coast were forced to evacuate to St. Augustine, Florida. **The Muskogeanans were many tribes who were located from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River, from the Appalachians to the Gulf.** The principal tribe in the group was called Creek by the English, and other important Muskogean tribes were Chickasaw and Choctaw. As the Europeans displaced more and more of these people, groups of Yuchi and Creek moved into northern Florida's Spanish area where by 1745 the missions were in ruins and Indian converts had scattered. These two groups, new to the area, eventually mixed with others located there and became a new society of various languages but with the Muskogean dialect. This "new-made tribe" pushed on further to the peninsula of Florida and became known as Seminoles. In 1842 the Federal Government allowed



"SEMINOLE CHIEFS AND CONTENDING PARTIES." ARTIST UNKNOWN. (01--1527)

several hundred Seminoles to remain in the Florida Everglades, rather than be removed west, and their descendants still reside there today.

Citizens of the Cherokee Nation resided in eastern Tennessee, the Carolinas, northern Alabama and Georgia. The eighteenth century was a time in which the Cherokee and other southeast Indians prospered. From the English and French they learned improved farming methods and acquired livestock. There was much intermarriage and some of them wore European clothes and built large homes similar to those in the countryside of Europe. After the Revolutionary War, the Cherokee women, almost without exception, dressed in European-style gowns which they had manufactured from cotton grown on their own plantations. The Cherokee, more than other groups, improved their communities with schools and churches and constructed roads which linked the society to the newly formed seats of government patterned after that of the United States.

By the first quarter of the nineteenth century, white settlers were overrunning Indian land, and Federal and State Governments did all they could to remove the Indians west. The states of Georgia and Alabama were established on Creek and Cherokee land; Mississippi had been Choctaw and Chickasaw land. Tribal governments were outlawed by the states and the Indian people were told they had to abide by state laws or move. Although these various acts were in violation of Federal treaties, the tribal leader's appeal (to President Jackson, and his Secretary of War, General John H. Eaton,) for protection was rejected — the explanation being that the Federal Government could not "comply with its treaty pledges." The official position of the states and Federal Government was that the best "remedy" to the situation was to remove the Indians west. Between November 1831 and spring of 1840 unnumbered thousands from the four tribes started for their new land in Indian Territory.



DETAIL FROM SPANISH STIRRUP. (6375.345)





"TRAIL OF TEARS." BRUMMETT ECHOHAWK. (0227.1487)

The proud descendants of the Temple-Mound and Burial-Mound people were herded together in preparation for the move west. White reports tell of the Indians embracing the land, fondling the trees and rocks and touching the streams. A Creek chief said, "They cannot appreciate the feelings of a man that loves his country." Driven like cattle, they said: "We were drove off like wolves . . . and

our peoples' feet were bleeding with long marches. . . . We are men . . . we have women and children, and why should we come like wild horses?" During parts of the journey, boats were put into use but more often than not they were rotten and overcrowded and fell apart in the water. At Memphis the Mississippi River was solid ice. The heavy snow and freezing air of the Great Arkansas Swamp

claimed life after life along the infamous "Trail of Tears." Large numbers of deaths occurred from disease and exposure after they reached Indian Territory and the total recorded deaths reached 28,000 due to the removal — although officials are convinced there were many more unrecorded deaths.



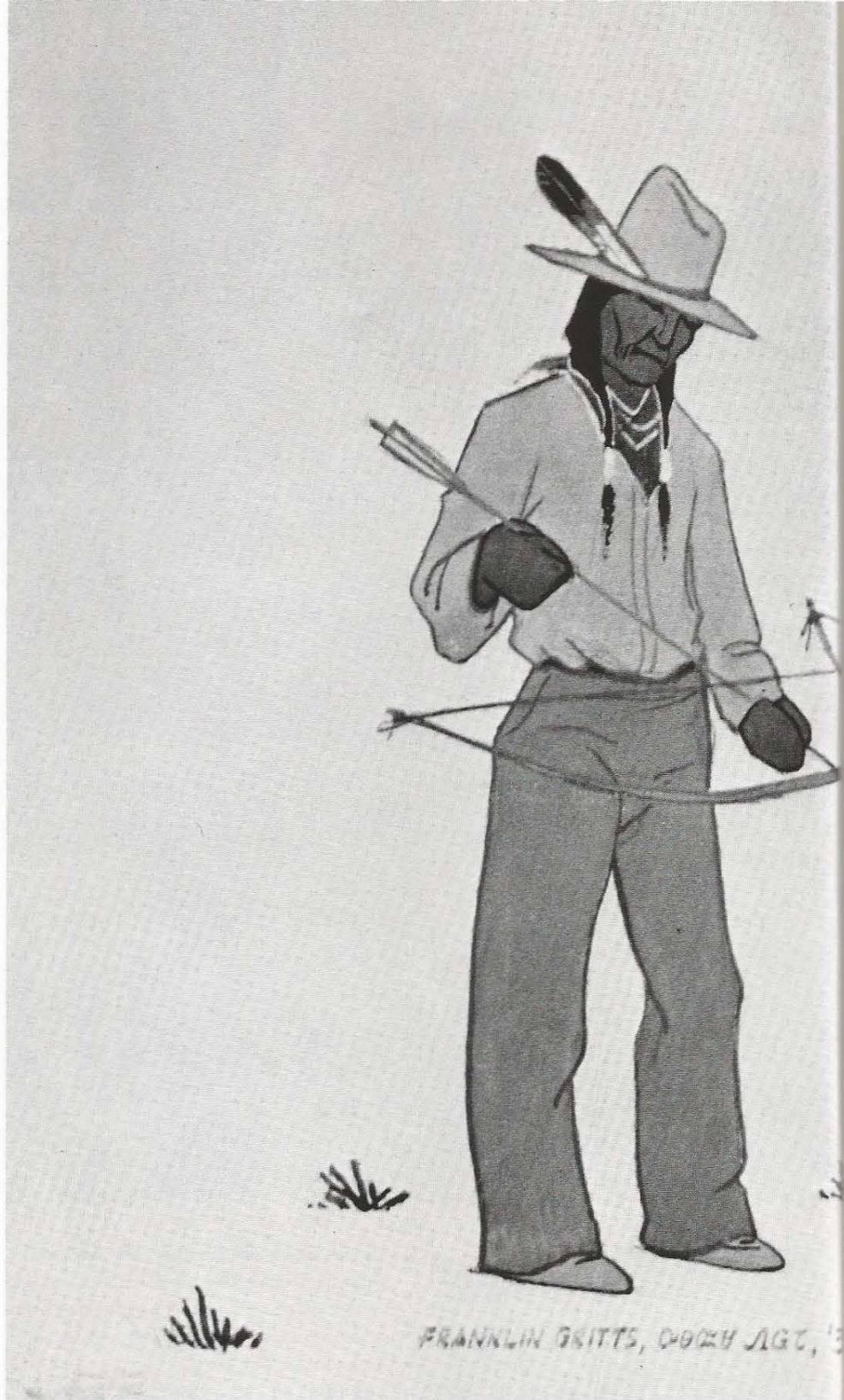
HANDMADE CHERRY CHEST OF DRAWERS
OWNED BY LEWIS ROSS. (7426.14)

The removal affected almost all Five Civilized Tribe members. Many, well educated and living in prestigious homes, used the labor of their slaves to pack treasured belongings. Heavy-laden wagons and carriages, pulled by fine horses, made their way to the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers where they boarded river transportation to within a closer

proximity of their new lands. The aristocrats and the commoners followed seven different routes to Indian Territory and many lost everything they owned, including most of their clothing. The Lewis Ross family was more fortunate. They were able to transport several prized pieces of hand-made furniture much of the way by river boat.

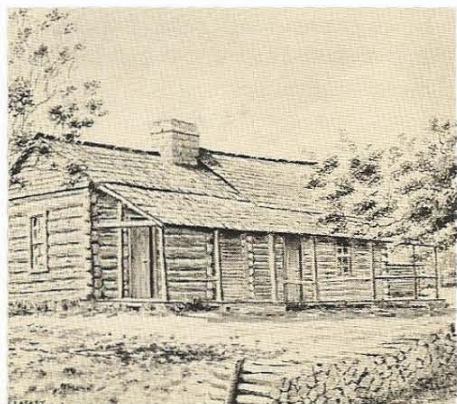
Relocated in their new 30,341 square miles of western lands, the Five Civilized Tribes each established a separate nation and governed themselves for several years. Eventually, however, the white man's ever-constant desire for more land brought about more juggling of Federal laws, and Indian Territory became the State of Oklahoma in 1907. On June 2, 1924, the Congress gave full citizenship to Indian people born in the United States—making "Indian Nations" no longer valid. Today there are still fair-sized communities of each of these tribes in the State and they hold regular celebrations recalling "the old ways," speaking their native language, and participating in sports of skill as illustrated by the cornstalk shoot painting by Franklin Gritts, a Cherokee artist in the contemporary Indian art collection at the museum.

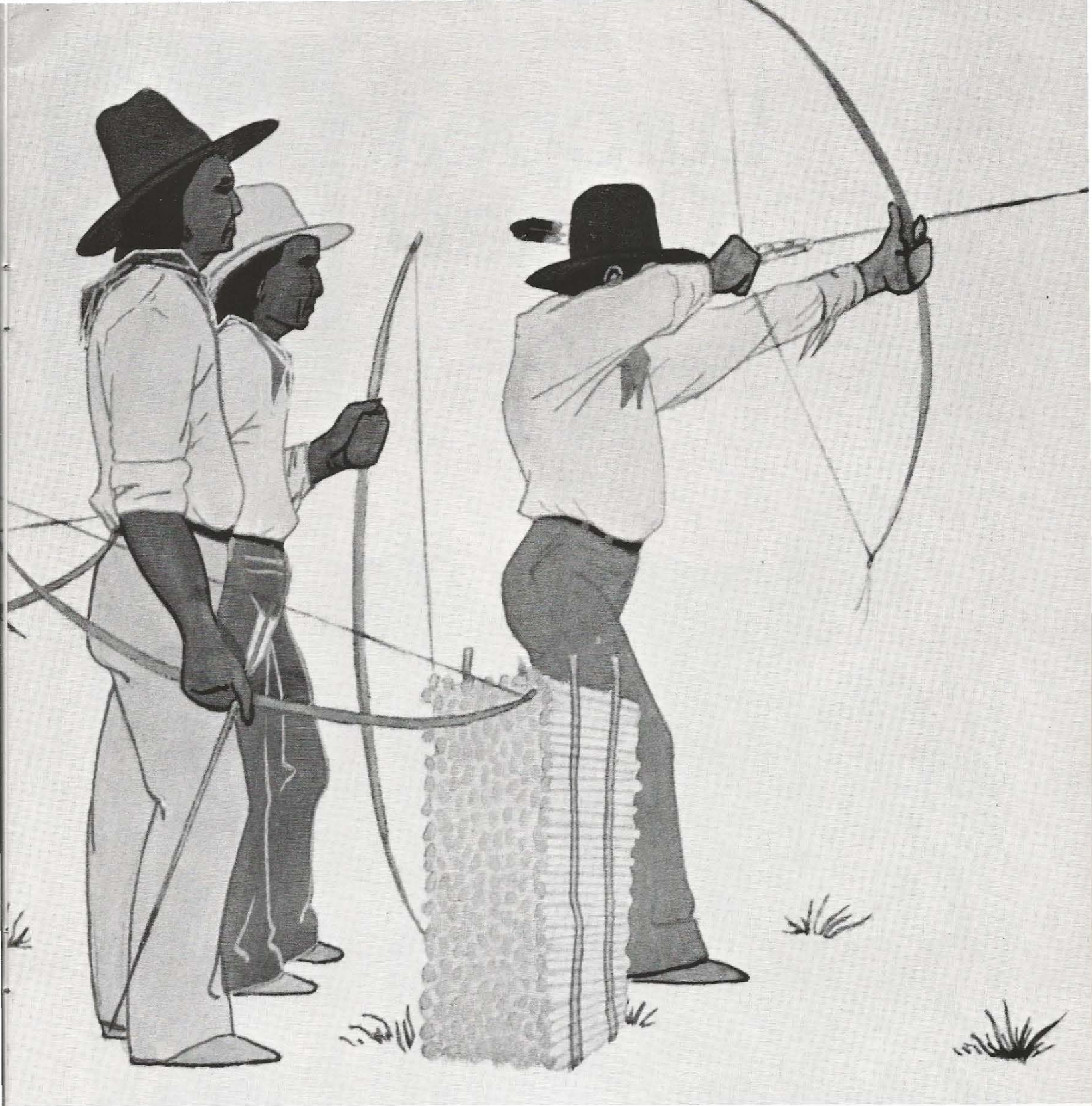
In eastern Oklahoma, near the small town of Sallisaw, there is a log cabin which was the home of Sequoyah. Fortunately Oklahoma has declared this structure, as well as many others of historical significance, a State Monument. Throughout the State of Oklahoma (which translated means "Red Man"), the history and cultural heritage of the red man are being respected and preserved through many avenues of endeavor.



"CORNSTALK SHOOT," FRANKLIN GRITTS. (0227.474)

"SEQUOYAH'S HOME NORTHEAST OF SALLISAW," VINSON LACKEY. (0127.1437)





European Contact

European contact was not confined just to the southeast quadrant of the North American Continent, but due to the Spanish conquests, was extended to the Caribbean and on into large parts of South America. Many came seeking greater opportunities for personal advancement

than they could hope to expect in their homeland and, in many cases, they did find such advantages. A few emigrants, such as Bartolomé de Las Casas, became spokesmen against the evils some of the Europeans inflicted upon the native Americans.



NATIVES OF FLORIDA AND THEIR CHIEF, ATHORE, WITH LAUDONNIÈRE PAYING HOMAGE TO COLUMN ERECTED BY LAUDONNIÈRE ON HIS FIRST VOYAGE. ENGRAVING BY THEODORE DEBRY AFTER JACQUES LEMOYNE DE MORGUES. (2475.42)



CAST GOLD ZOPILATE (KING VULTURE).
PROBABLY VERAGUAS OF WESTERN PANAMA. (5645.152)

"There stood the marvelous Temple of the Sun which they called CURICANCHA or the Golden Enclosure, perhaps the richest in gold and silver to be found in the entire world. . . . Its doors and gateways were finely carved and covered with sheets of gold as were the walls and beams of four smaller buildings which were inside. In the richest of these structures stood a golden image of the sun of great size, finely wrought and set with precious stones.

"The garden of the Temple . . . was entirely made of gold and silver. There were all sorts of plants, flowers, trees, animals, birds and other creatures like snakes or lizards, even butterflies, each made of gold and placed most naturally.

"Even the earth consisted of gold nug-

gets and the plants that grew there were stalks of corn that were entirely of gold—"

We find this description of the fabulous riches of the thousand-year-old destiny of Peru in the early Spanish chronicles (16th Century) of Garcilasco de la Vega and Pedro de Cieza de León.

The Inca goldworker (*kori-camayoc*) of Peru was a full-time government worker whose craft had begun in the Chavín Period (ca. 800-500 B.C.) in Peru or during the San Agustín Culture in Colombia contemporaneous with that of Chavín. The rapid destruction of Andean civilizations during the Spanish conquest is the reason for vagueness in dating many pre-Columbian objects.

Panama and Costa Rica led to the opposite end of the Golden Axis of the New



ANTHROPOMORPHIC PENDANT--COLOMBIA. (5645.46)



PECTORAL OF SHEET GOLD, PROBABLY PANAMA. (5645.228)



REPOUSSE GOLD EAR SPOOL, PROBABLY PANAMA. (5645.141)

World—Mexico. The Mayas to the south, with all their incredible sophistication, produced no goldworkers. Indeed, the precious hoard dredged from the Sacred Well at Chichén Itzá in Yucatan was probably imported from further south and the superb repoussé was added by artisans from further north in Mexico. Even the god of the goldsmiths, XIPE-Totec (Lord of the Sacrifice) came from the South.

The most primitive method used by goldworkers was the simple hammering of golden nuggets. Later, gold was melted—probably in stone crucibles—using

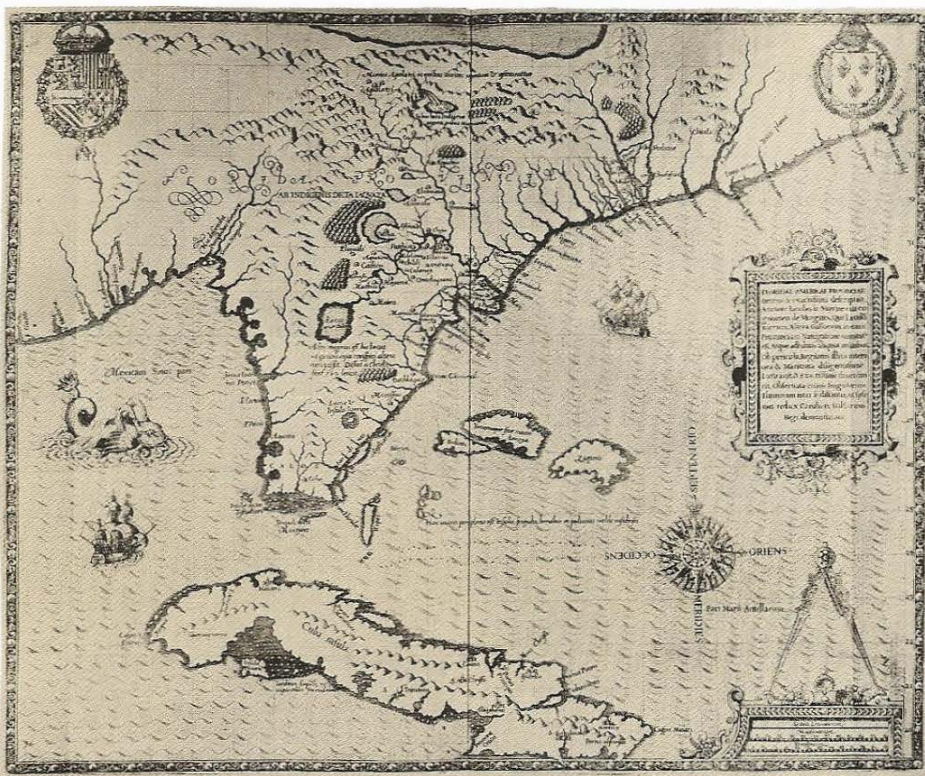
wooden or clay blowpipes to quicken the flames. Metallurgical techniques such as annealing, soldering, the “cire-perdue” or lost wax method, gilding either with salt baths or by gold Bain-marie (baño dorado de María) by using highly acid plants, all were developed in the cultural horizons in the Americas.

Decorative elements became exuberant in the skilled hands of the artisans. Lovely filigree of unbelievably small diameters, repoussé, openwork and inlay of emeralds, serpentine and other stones or feathers expressed a tradition of sculptural sensitivity unsurpassed even today.

The first European contact made on the southeast portion of the North American Continent was on the coast of Florida. Ponce de León (1460?-1521), a Spaniard, first explored and conquered Puerto Rico, and while there heard about the fabled island of Bimini where one could find gold, delicious fruits, and magical waters that could make an aging man young again. In 1513, he sighted the land which he named Florida. He explored much of the coastal area, and when he failed to find the "fountain of youth," he returned to Puerto Rico.

Ponce de León was followed in 1538 by Hernando De Soto (1500?-1542). De Soto, who had gained wealth in Peru, later became Governor of Cuba. It was from that island that he sailed for Florida where he hoped to find gold. He landed at Tampa Bay with 600 soldiers and moved northward to an Indian village called Apalache. He refused to abandon his search for gold and traveled north and west to the site of what is now Memphis, Tennessee, on the Mississippi. He continued into Arkansas, but failing to find gold, he returned as far as the Mississippi where he contracted a fever and died.

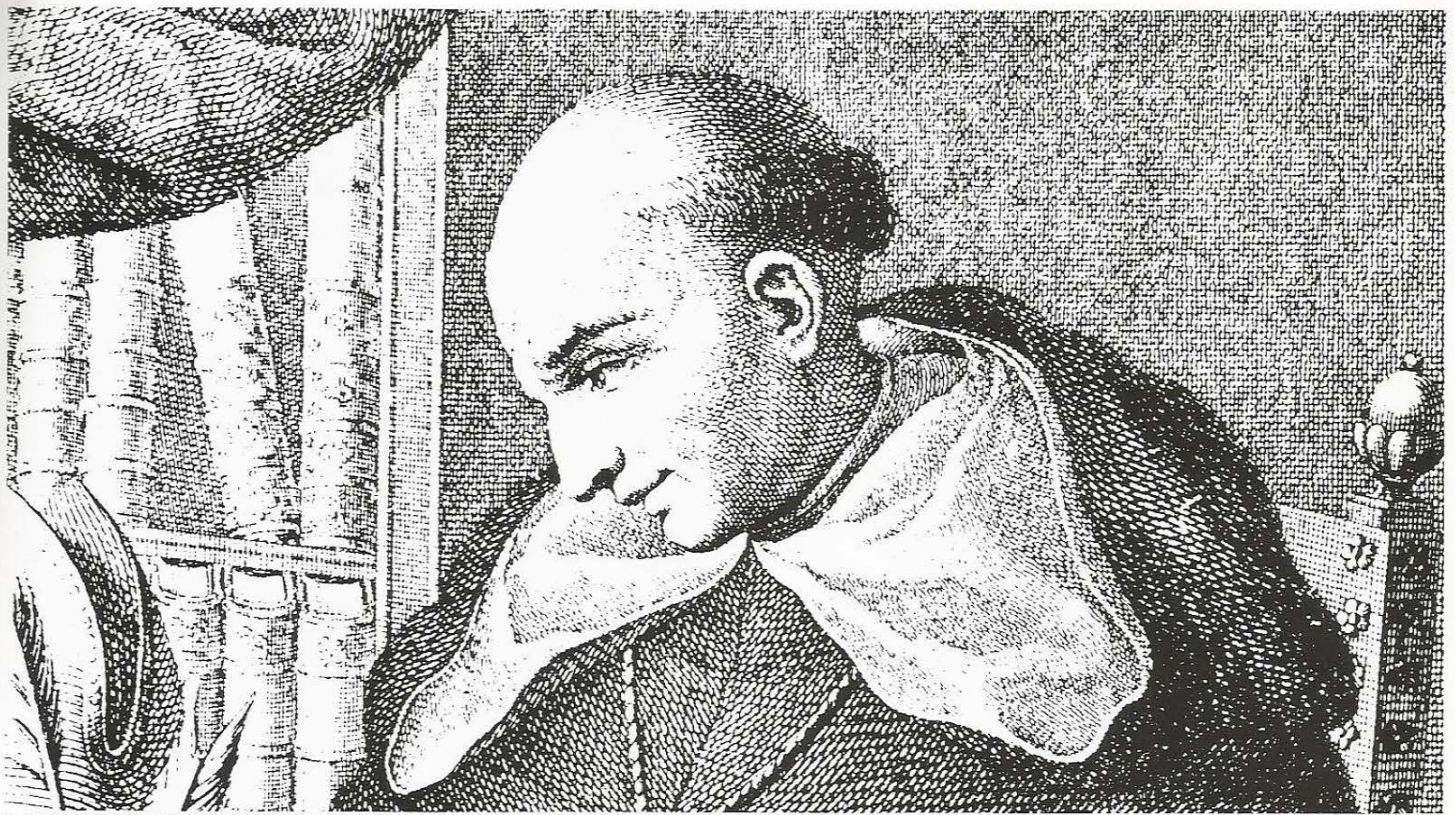
Other Spanish expeditions were made but all ended in failure. In 1562, the French Protestants landed in Florida and attempted to start a colony under Jean Ribaud. This was abandoned, and Fort Caroline was established under René (or Renaud) Goulaine Laudonnière, a French Huguenot, near St. John's River. This later was taken over by the Spanish.



SIXTEENTH CENTURY MAP OF FLORIDA AND CUBA ENGRAVED BY THEODORE DEBRY AFTER JACQUES LEMOINE DE MORGUES. (2475.42)



"BURIAL OF FD. DE SOTO." W. H. POWELL. (1576.68)



"D. FR. BARTHOLOME DE LAS CASAS." FROM "BARTHOLOMEW DE LAS CASAS." F. A. MACNUTT. CLEVELAND, 1909. (2397.936)

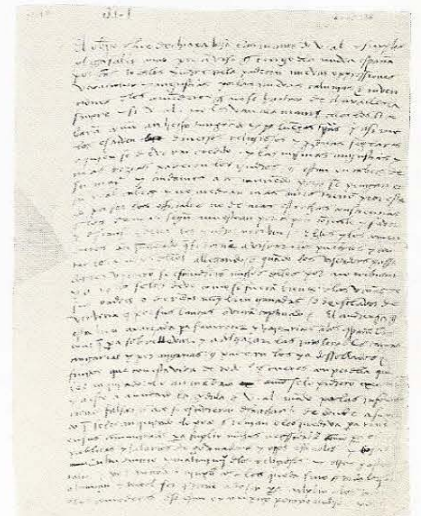
The Golden Age of Spain was a time of far-flung conquests in the New World. Sixteenth century treasure ships deeply laden with American gold wallowed their way home to Spain and the King's coffers. It was gold fever that brought Hernando Cortés and his little band of Spaniards to Mexico. As the adventurers saw the great Aztec Capitol, Tenochtitlán, gleaming on its lake under the morning sun, they experienced one of the truly dramatic moments in the history of America.

It is astonishing to consider today that a few Spaniards attempted the achievement of that conquest by Christian methods. Most of these soldiers of God were friars, and of these the one who has come to symbolize the movement was the Dominican, Bartolomé de Las Casas. He attempted, in a brutal period, to protect the Indians from cruel treatment and exploitation by his fellow countrymen. Many of his contemporaries in Spain and America considered him variously to be a saintly figure, a dangerous fanatic, or a sincere fool.

Las Casas was born in Seville in 1474. He may have studied at the University of Salamanca before going to the New World in 1502. He became a priest, but this did not prevent him from participating in the conquest of Cuba and receiving Indians and land as a reward. In 1514 he experienced a radical change of heart, and came to feel that the Indians had been unjustly treated by his countrymen. He became the renowned champion of the Indians, and for half a century was one of the dominating figures of the most exciting and glorious age Spain has ever known.

Las Casas' vehemence annoyed many Spaniards, but he enraged even more people by his vigorous and uncompromising attacks on Spanish action in America. Of those writings published by Las Casas, the tract that immediately inflamed the minds of Spaniards was the "Very Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies." This unbridled denunciation of Spanish cruelty and oppression of the Indians, full of questionable statistics and harsh accusations, was printed in 1552 in Seville.

Las Casas never lacked supporters for his ideas and had a discernible effect upon the action of men in his own time. If he were able to see the tremendous influence his ideas have exerted in the world since his death in 1566, he would probably be as astonished as was Cortés and his handful of conquistadores as they surveyed for the first time the magnificence of Tenochtitlán.



DE LAS CASAS LETTER TO PHILLIP II OF SPAIN, 1555. (4045.335)



A TAHVALLPA INGA XIII. Y **ultimo** El **ven-**
 cido Hijo de **Mama Chachapoya** Reyna de **Quito** aclamado por **Rex**
 del **Cuzco** Fue vencido y prezo el desdichado **Monarca** del **Conquis-**
 tador **D.ⁿ Francisco Pizarro**, y despues degollado en **Cajamarca**,
 Hallase que fue **Bautizado** y le llamo **Donjuan ATAHUALPA**.
 El año de **1533**.

The Inca Empire of South America was well known for its excellent roads, good communications, well-organized armies, and powerful political and social organization. The Empire, centered in present-day Peru, occupied from northern-most Ecuador to Chile and Argentina, and was inhabited by millions of subjects and many different ethnic groups. Cuzco was the seat of imperial power and also the ceremonial center. Although the government was well organized and reached into almost every part of the Indians' lives, its one fatal flaw was the method of selecting a new Emperor.

The Emperor, in theory, was to be the most competent of the Emperor's sons, but this would, in many cases, lead to many rivals for the throne and civil war among members of the royal family. In 1532, Francisco Pizarro, with only 177 men, was able to conquer the Inca Empire following such a dispute over who would be Emperor. It is also generally accepted that the Spanish introduction of fire-arms, horses, and steel armor, which the Incas had never before seen, was a substantial factor in the defeat of the Incas.

Atahualpa Inga XIII, the last and best son of **Mama Chachapoya**, Queen of **Quito**, acclaimed King of **Cuzco**. He was conquered and imprisoned by the Conqueror **Francisco Pizarro** and afterwards beheaded in **Cajamarca**. He was baptized and called **Don Juan Atahualpa** in the year of 1533.

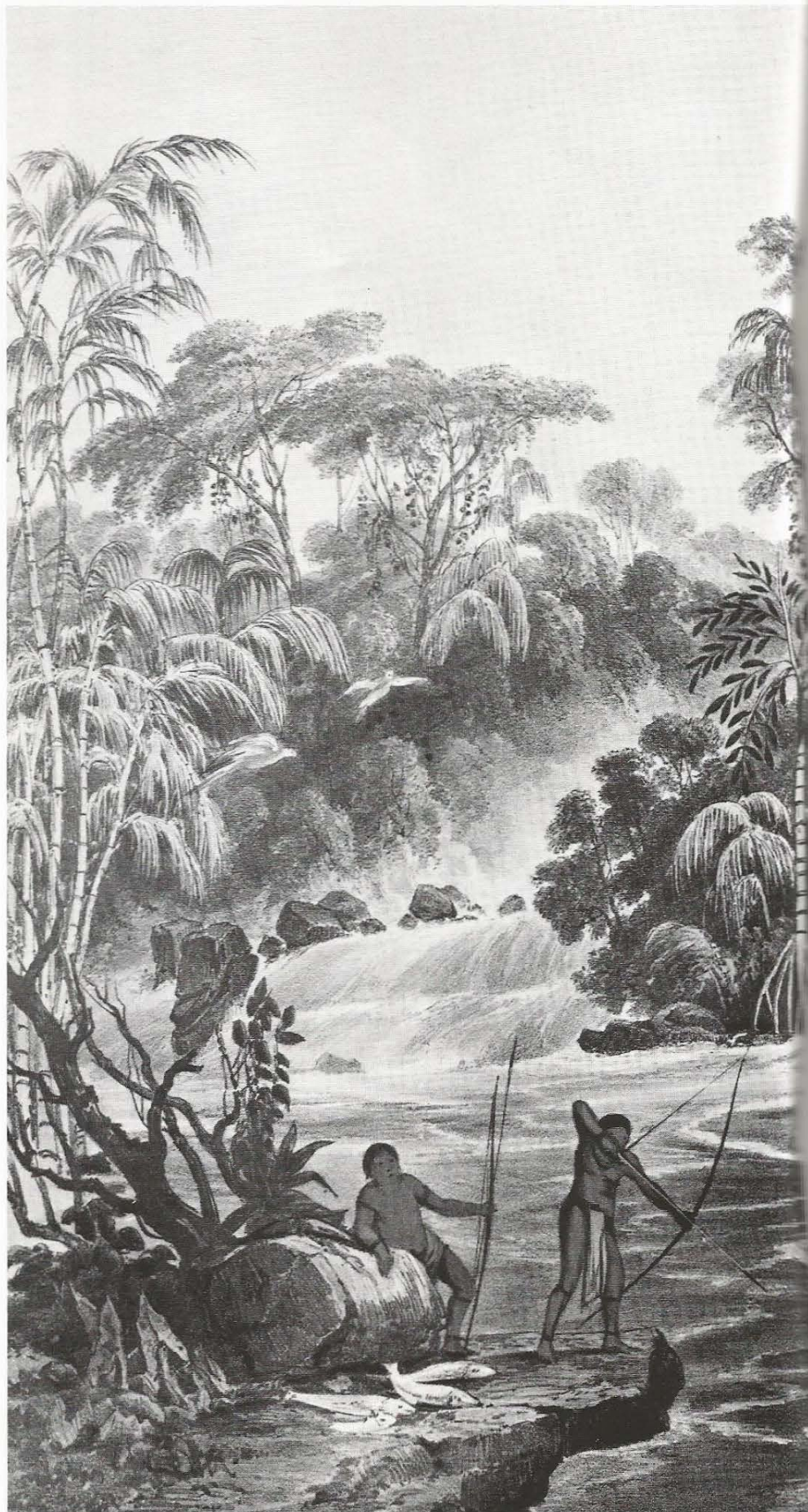
The drawing on this page is from a book entitled *Emperors of the Inca* (1600?) which is a collection of drawings, in color, of twelve Incas of Peru. The book was brought to this country about 1830 and each drawing contains, either at the top or the bottom of the page, a short summary of the reign of the Inca. The drawings are possibly the work of **Huaman Poma de Ayala**.

In 1841, Robert H. Schomburgk published *Twelve Views in the Interior of Guiana*. He was a British traveler and explorer and, with the help of the Royal Geographical Society, made geographical and botanical explorations and also surveyed the boundaries of British Guiana.

Pirara. "The marvellous discoveries and narratives of the first conquerors had already prepared the minds of the credulous for the greatest wonders, and disposed them to admit the accounts given of a still more recently discovered country, called El Dorado, the gold-covered capital of which was built upon a vast lake, surrounded by mountains so impregnated with the precious metals, 'that they shone with a dazzling splendour'. This picture excited the desires of thousands, and by alluring them to follow the phantom, led them to encounter dangers, privations, and a waste of human life unparalleled in the history of imaginary schemes."

Junction of the Kundanama with the Paramu. "We started from the Maiong-kong settlement on the 15th of February, and embarked on the Paramu, which we followed in a southern course. Somewhat below the river Puruniama a series of falls commenced, where we met with a serious disaster. One of the small canoes or corials, in passing a fall, filled with water and sunk, and though the corial was recovered, her load was almost entirely lost!"

Esmeralda on the Orinoco. "Although Esmeralda has not excited the same interest as that which has been attached to El Dorado, it has yet attained some celebrity, and in consequence of a mineralogical error, it attracted general attention towards the middle of the last century. During the general search in the newly discovered continent for mountains impregnated with gold and boundless riches, the rock-crystals which were found at the mountains of Duida and Maravaca, some of them of great transparency, others coloured by chlorine or blended with actinolite, were taken for diamonds and emeralds; and to the miserable hamlet of twelve or fifteen huts, the pompous title 'Nueva Villa de Esmeraldas' was given."



"JUNCTION OF THE KUNDANAMA WITH THE PARAMU." FROM "TWELVE VIEWS IN THE INTERIOR OF GUIANA," ROBERT H. SCHOMBURGK, LONDON, 1841. (3676.61)

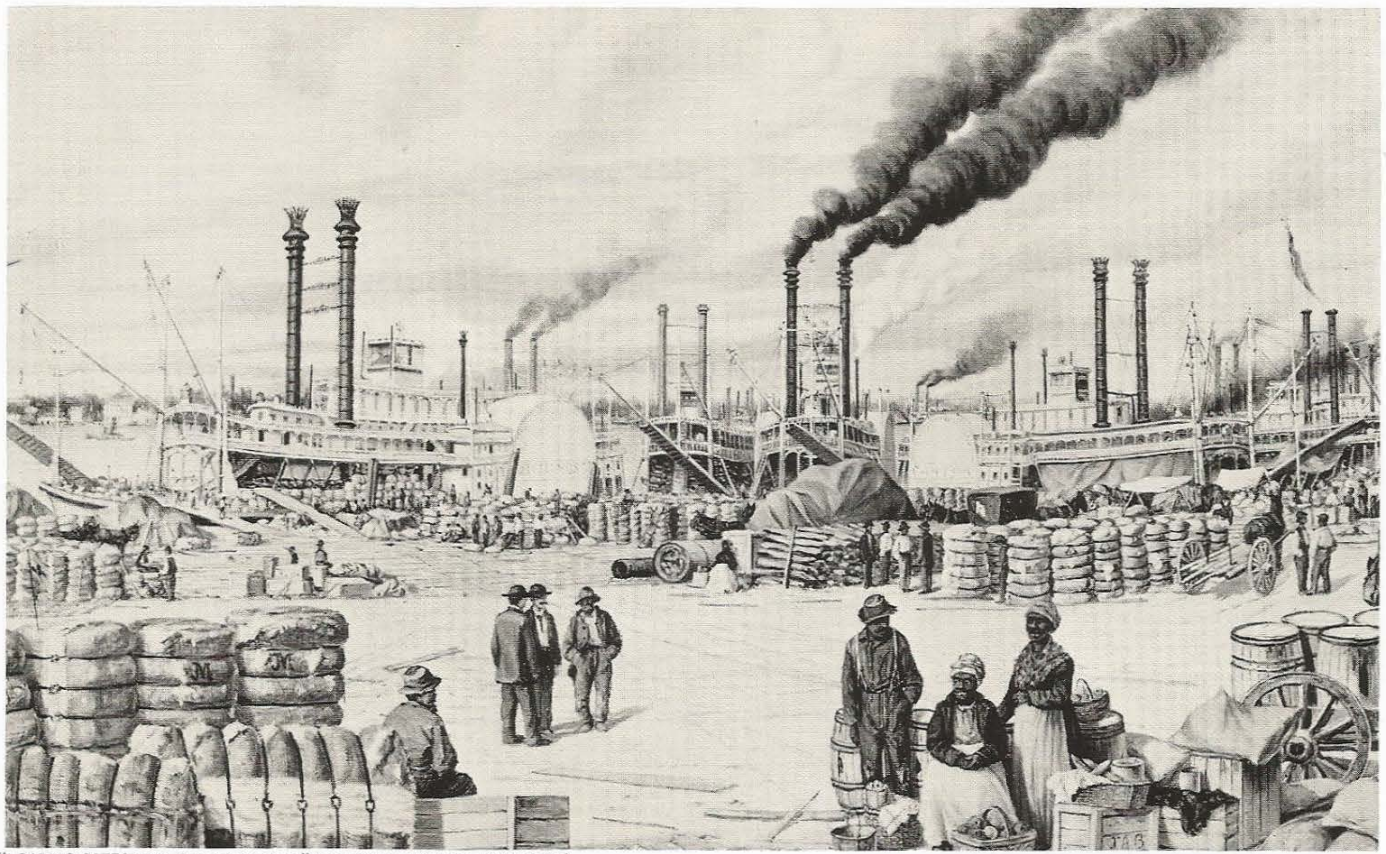




"PIRARA AND LAKE AMUCU." FROM "TWELVE VIEWS IN THE INTERIOR OF GUIANA," ROBERT H. SCHOMBURGK, LONDON, 1841. [3676.61]

"ESMERALDA ON THE ORINOCO." FROM "TWELVE VIEWS IN THE INTERIOR OF GUIANA," ROBERT H. SCHOMBURGK, LONDON, 1841. [3676.61]





"LOADING COTTON ON THE MISSISSIPPI," WILLIAM A. WALKER. (0126.1207)

CHAPTER II, THE SOUTHEAST QUADRANT

Expansion

Expansion in the Southeast came very early in the history of that area. The Europeans' discoveries spread quickly from Florida to the Mississippi, and interplay of both cultures had a profound effect on both. Sequoyah developed his syllabary after being fascinated by the white man's ability to produce "talking leaves."

Constitutional questions important to the entire Nation were raised by Southeasterners. John C. Calhoun's support of States rights was countered by Andrew Jackson in strong support of the Union. While the Jackson-Calhoun debate progressed, the expansion of the cotton culture gave

renewed emphasis to slavery and to forces that would eventually split the Union.

The Indians who had been removed from the Southeast to the west side of the Mississippi were not removed far enough to avoid the war that would bring so much devastation.

While the Southeast developed a few large urban areas besides Charleston, Atlanta, and New Orleans, it was the National Capitol that played such an important role in deciding the fate of the Southeast. Through pictures and documents, we have illustrated that interesting aspect of Washington, D.C.

CHEROKEE ALPHABET.

Characters as arranged by the inventor.

R D W l r G S W P A Y S L P o M o of U v W B A A o
 h T A s Y 4 F C T o U T Z o C R h s v r l E o T o
 s & o J K 4 q o G C T A G S S G i o T s r r r r r H
 L o C A L t o s o e.

Characters systematically arranged with the sounds.

D a	R e	T i	o o	o u	i v
s ga o ka	r ge	y gi	A go	J gu	E gv
of ha	r he	A hi	r ho	r hu	& hv
w la	e le	r li	e lo	M lu	A lv
r ma	o me	H mi	s mo	y mu	
e na t hna G nah	A ne	h ni	Z no	A nu	o nv
T gwa	o gwe	T gwi	4 gwo	o gwu	s gwv
o s u sa	s se	E si	s so	s su	R sv
t da w ta	s de t te	A di A ti	v do	s du	o dv
A dla t tla	L dle	c dli	v dlo	r dlu	P dlv
G dsa	r dse	h dsi	K dso	J dsu	C dsv
e wa	s we	o wi	o wo	s wu	G wv
o ya	s ye	s yi	A yo	G yu	B yv

Sounds represented by Vowels.

a as a in father, or short as a in rival,
 e as a in hate, or short as e in met,
 i as i in pique, or short as i in pit,
 o as oo in law, or short as o in not, nearly,
 u as oo in moon, or short as u in pull,
 v as u in but, nasalized. Nearly as it followed by

the French nasal n.

Consonant Sounds.

The sound of g is nearly as hard g in English, but approaching to k. That of d nearly as in English, but approaching to t. Other consonants as in English.

In some words g, l, n, d, w and y are aspirated, as if preceded by h. Aspiration gives to g the power of k, and to d the power of t.

I am not a German scholar, but I think the German g has precisely the power required here; and perhaps also the German d.

Much has been written about Sequoyah, or George Guess—other spellings include Gist, Guest, and Guyst—but little is really known about him. The place of his birth has never been agreed upon, but according to Dr. Emmet Starr, "He was born in the old Cherokee Nation, within one of the present states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, or Alabama, . . ." In *Myths of the Cherokee* by James Mooney, we are informed that "... Sequoyah lived as a boy with his mother at Tuskegee town in Tennessee, just outside of old Fort Loudon." Most scholars seem to agree that his mother was a full-blood Cherokee and his father a white man named George Gist, and that he was born sometime between 1760 and 1770.

A short article appears in the *Missionary Herald* for the year 1826 with the heading: CHEROKEES—SYLLABIC ALPHABET, INVENTED BY A NATIVE.

The article reads in part: "A form of alphabetical writing, invented by a Cherokee named George Guess, who does not speak English, and was never taught to read English books, is attracting great notice among the people generally. Hav-

ing become acquainted with the principle of the alphabet, viz. that marks can be made the symbols of sound; this uninstructed man conceived the notion that he could express all the syllables in the Cherokee language by separate marks, or characters. . . ."

Webster defines a syllabary in part as "... a list or set of written characters, each one representing a syllable." That is precisely what Sequoyah invented, and in studying the syllabary, it becomes obvious that he used the English alphabet as a guide for the forming of many of his characters. The *Herald* quotes the Rev. Samuel A. Worcester, a missionary to the Cherokee in Georgia, who later became a friend and associate of Sequoyah and was largely responsible for getting type cast and a printing press established:

"It is well worthy of notice, that Mr. Guyst, the inventor, is a man past the middle age. He had seen books, and, I have been told, had an English spelling-book in his house; but he could not read a word in any language, nor speak the English language at all. His alphabet consists of eighty-six characters, each of

which represents a syllable. . . .

"A few hours of instruction are sufficient for a Cherokee to learn to read his own language intelligibly. He will not, indeed, so soon be able to read fluently; but when he has learned to read and understand, fluency will be acquired by practice. . . ."

In 1827 the type was cast, and in a few short years several books of the Bible had been translated into the Cherokee language; a newspaper, the *Cherokee Phoenix* was being printed; their constitution and laws, many religious tracts, and school books were published, many in both Cherokee and English. Publication of the *Cherokee Advocate* began in Tahlequah in 1844. The original Advocate press was destroyed by fire in 1874, and the press which replaced it now resides at Gilcrease Institute along with a complete file of the 1844 and 1845 editions of the *Cherokee Advocate*.

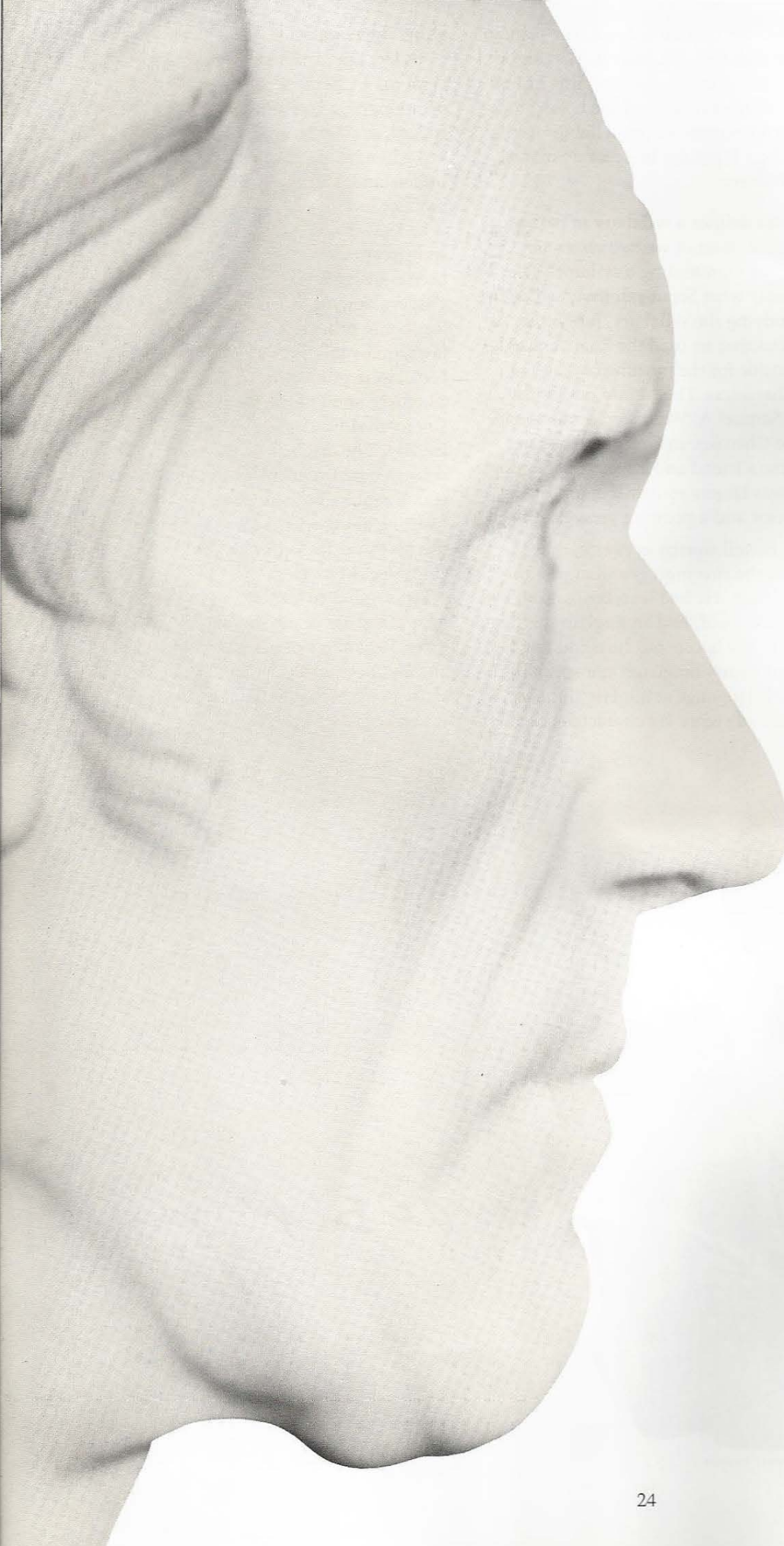
Sequoyah died somewhere in the Southwest at the age of eighty-two or eighty-three. Regardless of place or date of birth and death, it would be difficult to overestimate the value of his contribution to the Cherokee people.



"SEQUOYAH." LEONARD MCMURRY. (10827.3)

George Gist's signature in his own hand, written west of the Arkansas, year 1839.

"GEORGE GIST'S SIGNATURE IN HIS OWN HAND-- WRITTEN WEST OF THE ARKANSAS, YEAR 1839." (4026.312)



The United States is, or the United States are—this was more than a question of mere grammar for the generations of Americans who lived in and built this nation from 1776 to 1865. A question which constantly cropped up was, "What kind of Union do we have?" "We the people" had established the Constitution, but were "the people" acting as one sovereign nation, or were "the people" acting through the sovereignty of the several states?

In the early 1830's this question threatened to tear at least one state, South Carolina, out of the Union. Andrew Jackson was President. Nullification by a state of a Federal law was the issue. John C. Calhoun, the Vice-President, was the principal proponent for the doctrine, and Henry Clay was the man who pulled off another compromise to avert war.

The spark threatening to ignite the powder keg this time was the tariff—a surcharge levied on imported manufacturers to increase their cost to the American consumer and thus enable American manufacturers, who could not yet match the low prices, to compete. Beginning in 1816 and continuing to 1832, Congress periodically passed higher tariffs. This was all well and good for the industrial North, but the agrarian South could less and less afford the artificially high prices it was forced to pay for manufactured goods. In 1816 the price of cotton was thirty cents a bale and the tariff rate was twenty percent. By 1824, cotton had dropped to fourteen cents a bale while the tariff had gone up to thirty-seven percent. Lacking the votes to remedy the situation in Congress, many in the South began to speak of the tariff as being unconstitutional. This led to the movement for nullification. John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina, was called upon to draft an "Exposition and Protest."

Calhoun's *Exposition* of 1828 was generally misunderstood at the time and has often been misrepresented since. It had nothing to do with secession from the Union or rationalizing secession. Rather, it explained an allegedly constitutional method whereby a state could refuse to obey a Federal law and still remain in the Union.

"ANDREW JACKSON," CLARK MILLS. (0926.2)

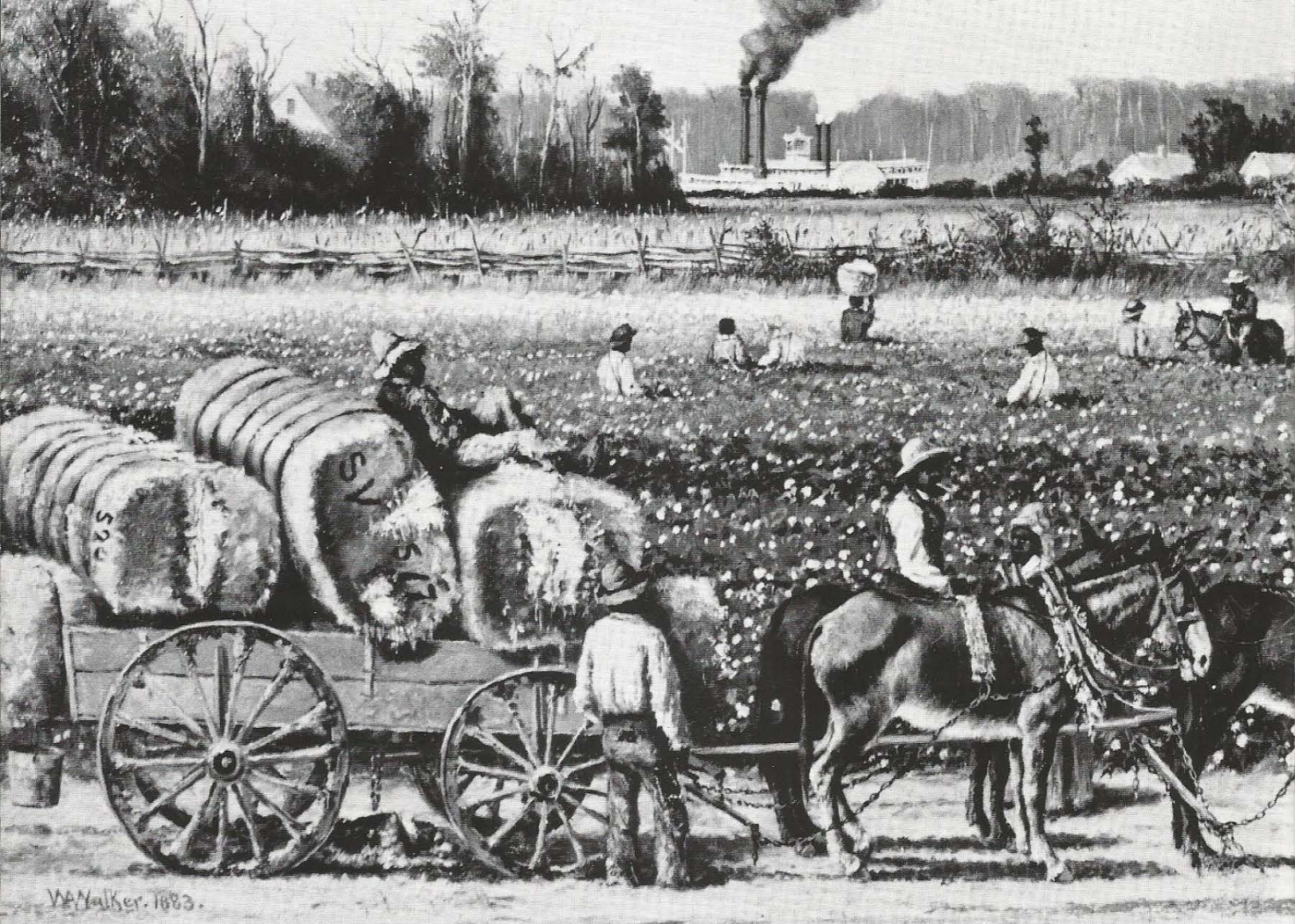
In that same year, Andrew Jackson became President of the United States. Jackson had previously stated that, "my opinion is so firmly invested in the sovereignty of the State" as to be unshakable. In 1829 he warned against encroaching upon "State Sovereignty!" But in spite of these statements, and even though he was a southerner, he made no effort to remove the tariff which was bringing on the nullification movement.

On April 13, 1830, a dinner party was held in honor of Thomas Jefferson, champion of States rights, the originator of the state interposition (nullification) doctrine, and founder of the Democratic party. The sponsors of the dinner hoped to make clear Jefferson's connection with the views of South Carolina and to bring Jackson closer to them. Twenty-four planned toasts preceded one given by Jackson. Each toast had expanded the support for South Carolina. When finally it came Jackson's turn he took his glass, looked squarely at Calhoun, and stated "Our Federal Union: it must be preserved!" Calhoun, shocked, responded in a weak voice, "The Union! Next to our liberty most dear . . ." and then ruined the impact of his toast with a short insipid speech. With that exchange, the lines were drawn. Even though Jackson allowed Georgia to defy the Supreme Court with regard to Cherokee removal, he came out strongly against nullification.

In November 1832, the South Carolina Legislature adopted an ordinance of nullification declaring the tariff acts of 1828 and the most recent one of 1832 "null and void and no law, nor binding upon this state, its officers, and citizens!" No tariff duties were allowed to be collected in South Carolina after February 1, 1833. Calhoun resigned as Vice-President shortly thereafter.

To Jackson this action meant "insurrection and war. . ." In the Force Bill, the President requested of Congress the authorization to use the military to suppress the resistance to laws of the Federal Government. "In forty days I can have within the limits of South Carolina fifty thousand men, and in another forty





"COTTON PLANTATION ON THE MISSISSIPPI," WILLIAM A. WALKER. (0126.1206)

days another fifty thousand," he said. South Carolina responded by immediately raising a force of "minute men" to meet any invasion.

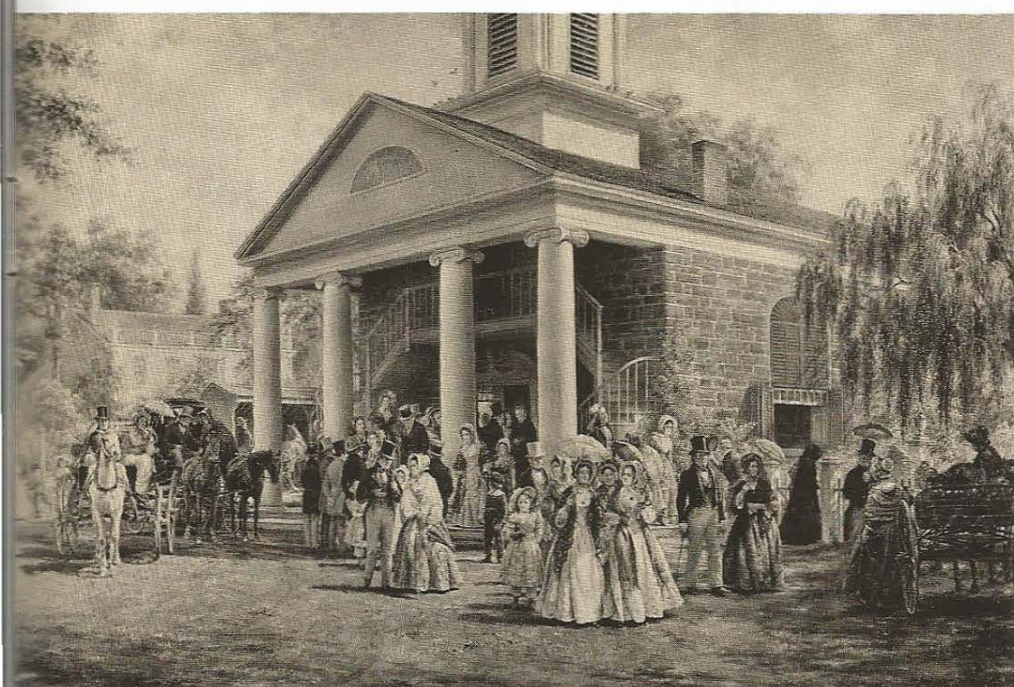
With Jackson ready to "die with the Union" and the people of South Carolina ready to "be buried beneath its ruins," obviously something had to be done. Henry Clay came through with a Union-saving compromise. Clay agreed to push through Congress a bill which would gradually reduce the tariff back to the 1816 level. In return, Calhoun was to get the Legislature of South Carolina to repeal its nullification ordinance. Clay's bill became law, but so did Jackson's Force Bill, and on the same day. South Carolina repealed its nullification of the Tariff Acts, BUT NULLIFIED JACKSON'S FORCE BILL! Jackson postponed the Civil War for three more decades by ignoring that final act.

The pre-Civil War South was dominated by a comparatively few planters but who, through their influence, controlled many of the State governments. Probably more important was their position as a symbol of what every southerner wanted to be. The southern establishment had aristocratic values, whether the planter was an aristocrat or not. In fact, in many cases, these great planters were men of humble birth who had carved fortunes out of the Cotton Kingdom. They embraced medieval chivalry, led the life of a country gentleman, and held a high sense of personal honor. Owning, by far, the greatest number of slaves and owning the richest land, they set the tone of southern society. From time to time, they may have visited Charleston or New Orleans, but the greatest part of their time was spent on the plantation tending to the administration of their property.

The real backbone of southern life was provided by the yeoman farmer who owned few slaves, or none at all, and farmed his own land, lived in a log cabin, and who finally proved to be the most difficult to defeat when the Civil War came. His aim, nevertheless, was to climb to the level of the planter.

Ignored and disliked by white and blacks alike were the "pore white trash" who were trapped on worn-out land, illiterate, and whose only pride was his color.

A great many Americans have cultural roots in Africa. Their forebears came to America as slaves to help solve the labor problems of a new country. The cotton culture was responsible for the employment of most of the slaves. The cultivation of cotton moved west from South Carolina and Georgia to the Gulf States



"SUNDAY MORNING," EDWARD LAMSON HENRY. (0126.1221)

and then up the Mississippi Valley.

With the opening of the western lands for the planting of cotton, there was an even greater demand for slaves. In 1808, the African slave trade had been abolished, consequently the smuggling of slaves became a necessity—they came partly from Africa and the West Indies, but mostly from the domestic slave trade. Many planters moving to the Mississippi Valley took their slaves with them, but the States of the upper South shipped many of their slaves "down the river" where they could get a better price for them. A tragic side effect of the trade was the separation of black families by sale. According to Samuel Eliot Morison in his *The Oxford History of the American People*, Randolph of Roanoke stated that the best orator he had ever heard "was a slave. She was a mother, and her rostrum was the auction block!"

Albert Pike became the Confederate Commissioner of Indian Affairs and a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army in Indian Territory even though he was a native of New England and was personally opposed to slavery.

The Indians on the frontier represented a volatile and unknown factor. Some of the Indians were civilized and it was hoped they might prove to be useful allies. Most of the other tribes, however, were inclined to raid anyone anywhere whether Yankee or rebel. It fell to Pike to negotiate an alliance with the civilized tribes and to encourage the others to raid Union Kansas rather than Confederate Texas.

Though the Five Civilized Tribes at first maintained that they were independent nations desirous of remaining neutral in the white man's conflict, eventually Pike and the exigencies of war won a majority of each tribe over to the Southern Cause.

In November of 1861, Pike was appointed Brigadier General commanding four regiments of Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Seminoles, and Creeks. General Pike wanted to confine his operations to small scale raiding in Indian Territory, but this was not to be.

The Battle of Pea Ridge. In an effort to secure Missouri for the Union, General Curtis moved south with twelve thousand men into northern Arkansas to remove any and all Confederate threats to the vital border state. The Confederate area Commander, Gen. Earl Van Dorn saw this invasion as an opportunity to defeat a Union Army and invade Missouri. Accordingly he scraped together every available unit including Pike's Indian Brigade. By the time the two armies met at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, on March 6-8, 1862, Van Dorn had accumulated some fifteen thousand men.

Van Dorn had planned to circle behind Curtis on the night of March 6, make a surprise attack on March 7, cut the Union supply line, block all escape routes, and thus bag the entire Yankee Army. The long night march, however, succeeded only in fragmenting the Confederate

Army into three divisions which became exhausted by piecemeal attacks against the concentrated Federal forces.

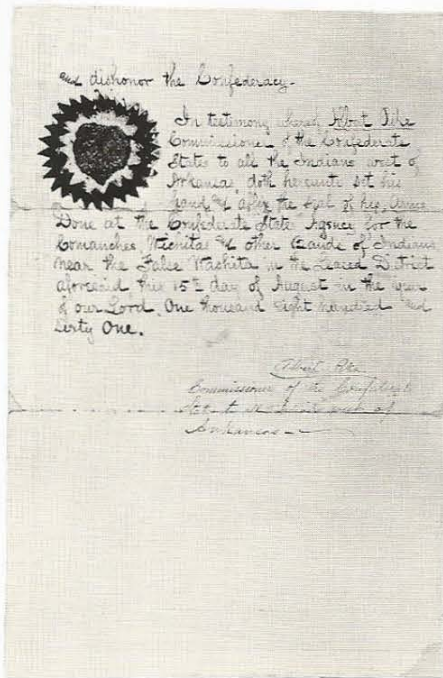
One of the few Confederate successes in the battle was the capture of a Federal battery by the Cherokee Mounted Rifles (on foot) led by Col. Stand Watie. Unfortunately the Indians did not know exactly what to do with the "thunder wagons" and were forced to abandon them when they came under a fierce and bewildering shell fire from other Union field pieces.

By the evening of March 7, each army had lost about 1300 men and was nearly out of ammunition. In an affair which could have gone either way, the scattered rebel units broke under the concentrated stroke delivered by General Curtis on March 8. Once again Stand Watie and his Cherokees proved their value by fighting a rear guard action from the heights of Pea Ridge while the mangled Confederate Army made its escape.

It was a decisive victory for the Union Army. It was also the first and last time that Indians were allowed to participate in the war on a large scale. Thereafter they were used only as raiders and scouts.

Fort Towson and Stand Watie's Surrender Document. As raiders and scouts, the Indians served the Confederacy well. So well, in fact, did Stand Watie lead them, that he was made a Brigadier General. He was the only Indian to achieve such a rank in the Civil War. For three more years, Watie led his forces in Indian Territory, but the surrender of General Lee on April 9, 1865, and of Kirby Smith in Texas on May 26, marked the end of his military career. However, as it was maintained that the Five Civilized Tribes had entered the war as independent allies of the Confederacy, they reserved unto themselves the right to surrender if and when they chose.

Finally, Peter Pitchlynn surrendered his Choctaws at Fort Towson on June 19. General Watie, also at Fort Towson, surrendered the Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, and Osages under his command on June 23. The Chickasaws did not surrender until July 14, 1865.



"LETTER OF SAFEGUARD" SIGNED BY ALBERT PIKE, AUGUST 15, 1861. (4026.311)

Arct-111-

The above articles of Agreement, to remain
and be in force and effect, untill the meeting
of the Grand Council to meet at Armstrong
Academy, Chactaw Nation, on the 1st day of
September AD 1865 and untill such time as the
proceedings of said Grand Council shall be rat-
ified by the proper authorities both of the
Cherokee Nation and the United States

In testimony whereof the said
Lieut. Col. A. C. Mathews and adjutant W. H. Vance
Commissioners on part of of the United States
and Brig Genl Stand Watie Governor and
Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation,
have here unto set their hands and Seals

Signed:

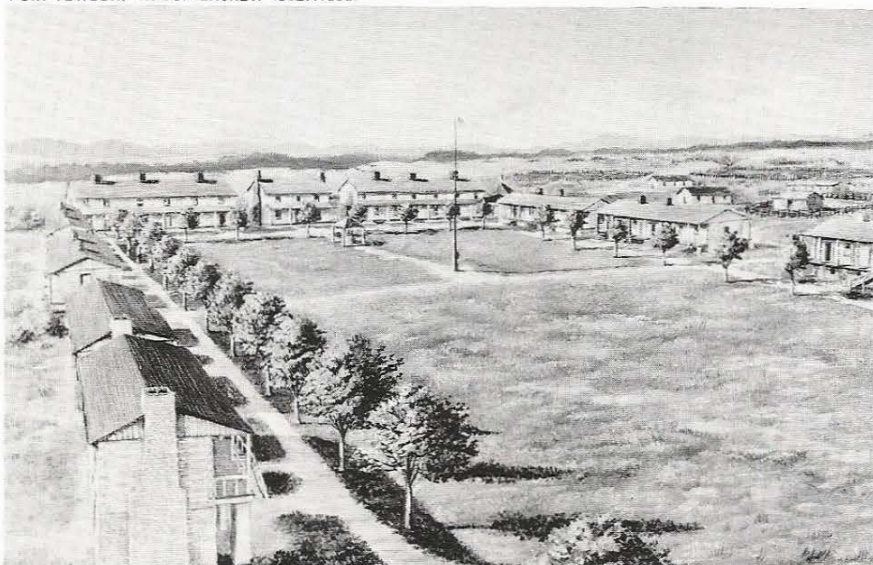
A. C. Mathews Lt

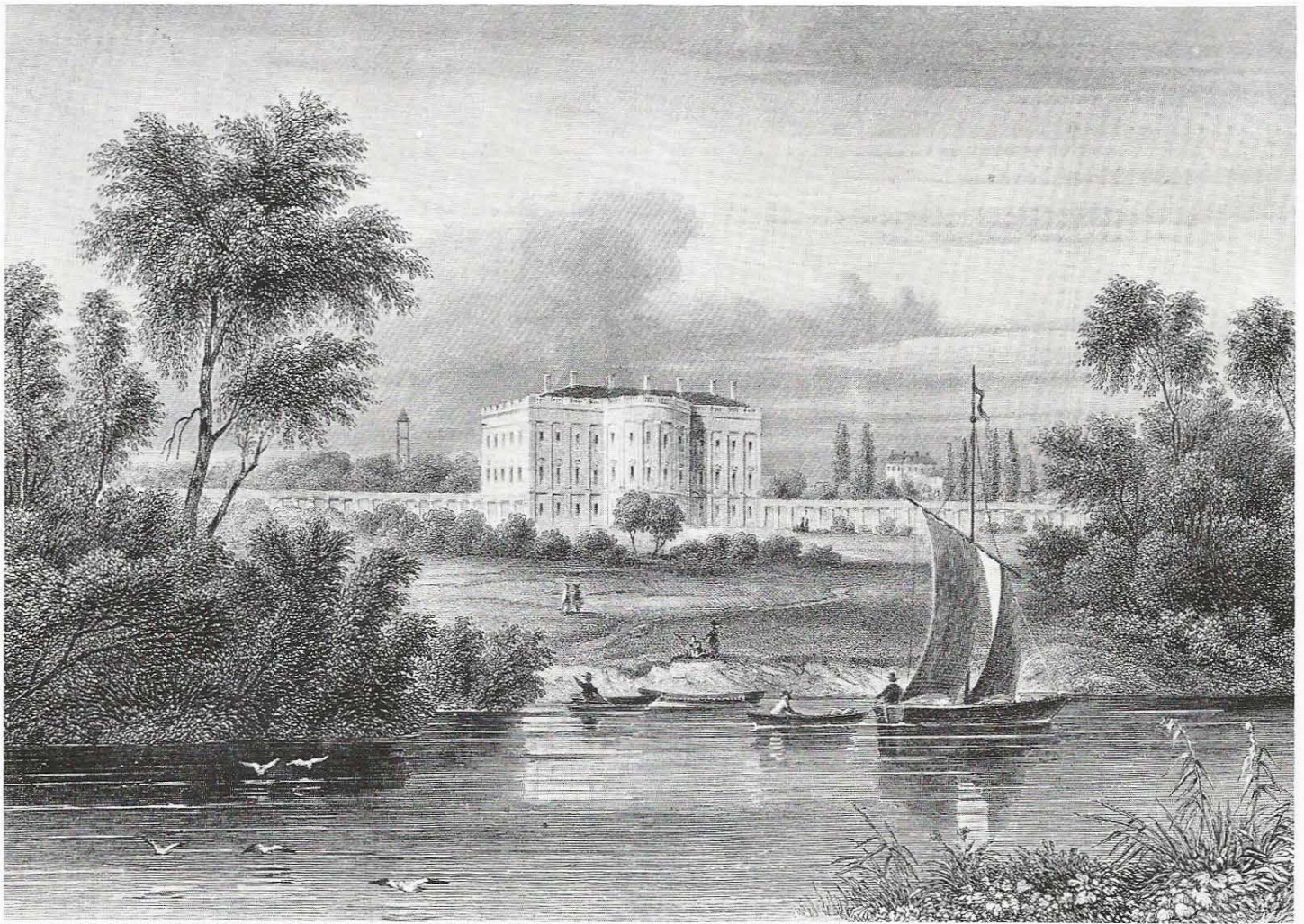
Mr Vance adjt.

Commissioners

Stand Watie Brig Genl Governor
Principal Chief Cherokee Nation

STAND WATIE SURRENDER DOCUMENT. (4026.314)
"FORT TOWSON," VINSON LACKEY. (0127.1398)



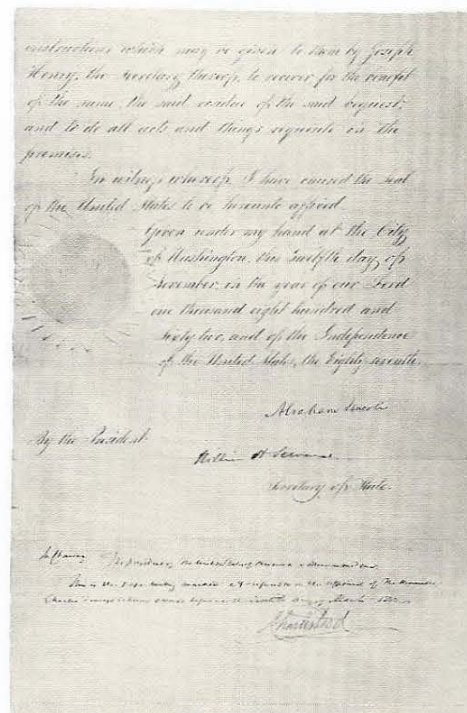


"THE PRESIDENTS HOUSE," FROM "THE UNITED STATES ILLUSTRATED," CHARLES A. DANA, ED. NEW YORK, 1855. (2516.891)

Washington, District of Columbia, named in honor of George Washington, was once part of Maryland and Virginia. The District covers an area of sixty-nine square miles on the Potomac River. George Washington selected the site in 1791, and the well-known French engineer Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant designed and laid out the city before it was built. The threat of riotous Pennsylvania soldiers in Philadelphia inspired the writers of the Constitution to give Congress the exclusive legislative authority over the District. A distinct district to house the seat of government was formed to avoid pressure on the Capitol from any one state. The seat of government was actually moved to Washington in 1800.

James Smithson, who was an English scientist, died in 1829 and bequeathed his estate of some \$550,000 to the United States to found an establishment "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge." Congress accepted this bequest and, in 1846, created the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

This two-page document, on vellum, signed November 12, 1862, authorized the Institution's agents in London to recover the residue of Smithson's bequest. This is one of the few documents on which Lincoln signed his full name—usually he used only the initial of his first name. This paper is countersigned by William H. Seward, Secretary of State, and by Charles Dodd.



"SMITHSON'S BEQUEST" SIGNED BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN, NOVEMBER 12, 1862. (4026.309)



MALE BAMBARA HEADDRESS--CAMEROUN. (1167.29)

CHAPTER II, THE SOUTHEAST QUADRANT

Microcosm

An important but almost unknown facet of the Gilcrease Institute Collection is found in the assemblage of representative art from the extreme west coast of Africa. Here we have an opportunity to introduce to the reader this interesting and heretofore little-displayed part of the total Gilcrease Collection. Surprising as it may seem to some, this aspect of human creativity in the western half of the world has an important place within the dimensions of the Gilcrease Collections, especially looked at from this hemispheric vantage point.

Somewhere the sky touches the Earth, And the name of that place is the End—

A Kamba saying

Rising out of the primordial silence on a continent as vast as it is diverse, the culture history of man began. Africa, where so many of our native Americans have their roots, has a fascinating history that provides insights into intellectual curiosity.

Similar to evolutions on other continents in many ways, Africa possesses the earliest known and most famous fossil site—Olduvai Gorge in northern Tanzania.

Archaeological data, ethnological studies, as well as the cultural-historical definition of primitive art in Africa, chronicle the millenniums of civilization.

Currently, anthropologists summarize Africa in ten major culture areas and

three major vegetal zones. The culture areas are North Africa, Western and Eastern Sudan, Egypt, East Horn, the Congo, East African cattle complex, and the Guinea Coast.

Africa is inhabited by five racial groups (with numerous sub-groups) —Negroid, Caucasoid, Pygmoid, Bushmanoid, and Mongoloid. The evolution of the forefathers of these varied people probably has been affected by climatic change more than any other single factor.

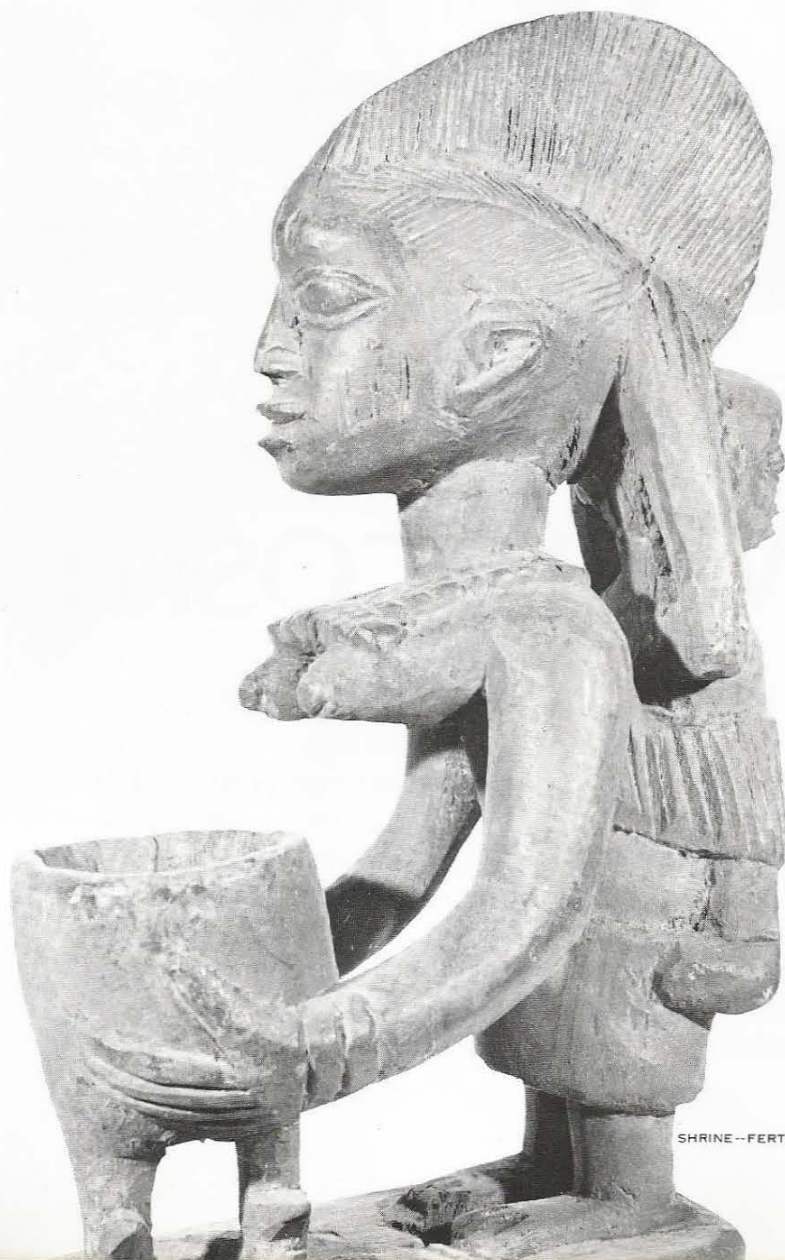
Through the mute testimony of wondrous rock paintings (along with other studies), it is now beginning to be possible to reconstruct the living habits of the ancient peoples of Africa.

By the 1800's, colonization of Africa was solidly entrenched. With colonization came a great excitement for collecting the exotic and vigorous art of the Black World.

Artists during the Middle Ages in Europe had their counterparts in African artists. Styles were structured by religious beliefs and the moral dogmas of the African's daily life. Creative energy found variety in sculpture, songs, dances, and the "talking drums" of Africa.

The collection of African art and artifacts in Gilcrease Institute is a cross section of the representational art in Africa.

The female figure with a child on her back holding a bowl is a classical representation of a theme so common in African art—fertility symbols. The Yoruba of western Nigeria have strong beliefs that souls remain alive even though mortal remains do not, and that ancestors are reborn in children. It's easy to see why so much significance is placed on procreation.



SHRINE--FERTILITY--WOMAN HOLDING A BOWL--YORUBA. (1167.30)

*This second edition of the American Scene
has dealt with the development of the
southeastern quadrant of our map of the
western half of the world. Number 3 of this
series will concentrate on the southwest
quadrant with interesting studies of our
own Southwestern Indians, the Mexican
War, the Taos artists, and the many
explorers and their part in the expanding
western movement. It also touches on the
role religion played during this expansion.*