PREFACE

Archaeology in the Ohio area, especially relating to societies who were responsible for constructing earthen mounds, holds a significant place in the history of U.S. archaeology. Archaeological inquiry began with the study of those sacred earthen mounds initially built by indigenous societies some three thousand years ago. The American myth of an unknown, imaginary race of nonindigenous peoples responsible for building these dispersed conical mounds, particularly abundant in the middle Ohio Valley, spread with western expansion. It was not until Cyrus Thomas's excavations of many of these mounds in the late nineteenth century that this myth was eventually dispelled, with credit rightfully given to indigenous peoples.

A central question posed by the emergent profession of archaeology then became, who were these people? Excavation of the large conical Adena mound in Chillicothe, Ohio, by William Mills in 1901 yielded a richness of funerary artifacts that initiated Adena studies. Continued excavations of earthen conical mounds over the next five decades added to the inventory of material traits that defined the Adena culture, presumed at the time to represent a single, unified tribe analogous to contemporary Native American tribes. These trait lists continued to grow as archaeology refined its chronological placement of cultures, establishing the "Early Woodland" culture as distinct from that of the "Late Archaic" period, which roughly subsumed the transition from nomadic to sedentary archaeological cultures. By the 1960s, archaeologists accepted the Adena as a specific kind of Early Woodland society: a shamanistic, kin-based culture centered along the middle Ohio Valley but with influence—evidenced by their iconic burial mounds—elsewhere in the eastern portion of the continent.

Since the 1960s, Adena research established the construction of burial mounds ca. 500 BC, placing this funerary practice more firmly in the chronology of the Early Woodland period. Posts located under the perimeters of these mounds were recognized not as the remnants of domestic structures, but rather as relating to ceremony. The idea that mounds identified the loci of hamlets was thus reconsidered. Small sites adjacent to mounds similarly were viewed not as residences but as mortuary camps—places where people temporarily stayed while preparing for and participating in the funeral of the deceased to be interred in that mound.

Advances were also made in modeling horticultural origins. By the 1950s, research had established the species tended by the Early Woodland peoples, as archaeologists and botanists collaborated to identify chenopods, maygrass, marsh

elder, and a variety of other local species, rather than maize from Mexico, as a significant component of the economy of these increasingly sedentary groups. This transition from a hunting-gathering economy to one supplemented with gardened or managed plant species remains a key area of research today.

Developments in the field of anthropology ensued. The notion of a single Adena culture was discarded as a classificatory artifact too easily created by virtue of the presence of mounds. In fact, the term "Adena" itself is seen as obstructive to analytic growth and is used now solely as a heuristic term. Anthropologists also achieved important insights in conceptualizing the historical process from hunter-gatherer to more sedentary societies. By analytically separating the creation of ceramics, horticulture, and sedentism, anthropologists emphasized the variability among these Early Woodland societies, as distinct from their Late Archaic ancestors. Further, agency rather than some inevitable, organic emergence of change is now the framework for a more humanistic scale of investigation.

However, a mature understanding of the diversity within Early Woodland societies as opposed to that of the Late Archaic period, as well as of the relationships among these societies, has been slow in coming. The integration of data with social models from controlled historic comparisons—analogs—has languished. Domestic site excavation and settlement surveys remain limited. The lament of all archaeologists—the need for more refined regional chronologies—typifies Early Woodland research, precluding advancements in historical ecology. This volume seeks to rectify, to some degree, these limitations.

The following collection of essays explores some of the significant cultural transitions experienced by Archaic and Early Woodland societies in the Ohio area between approximately 4000 BC and AD 100. The essays document evidence for a growing complexity of the social, political, and ceremonial lives of these early people. They combine presentations given at two symposia sponsored by the Ohio Archaeological Council, "Hunter-Gatherers to Horticulturists: The Archaic Prehistory of the Ohio Area" in 1995 and "The Early Woodland and Adena Prehistory of the Ohio Area" in 1997, along with several essays submitted specifically for this publication. The data are based on traditional archaeological field research, on analyses of museum collections, and on the results of a number of cultural resource management (CRM) projects. Their geographic coverage extends to all parts of Ohio and to adjoining states. While some focus on individual sites, others broaden their view to larger regions such as the western Lake Erie Basin and the Muskingum and Hocking river valleys. Besides providing new information on these topics, many of the chapters include previously unpublished radiocarbon dates that enhance our understanding of the chronology of Archaic and Early Woodland cultures.

Kent D. Vickery's contribution constitutes a major summary of the author's significant investigations documenting Archaic settlement patterns and chronology. The essay focuses on his work in southwestern Ohio, particularly the Late Archaic Maple Creek phase, defining not only artifact types but also settlement patterns and subsistence.

Craig S. Keener, Kolleen Butterworth, and Crystal L. Reustle combine large quantities of data from a number of small surface sites located in north-central Ohio as part of a lengthy US 30 highway survey project. Looking at these small sites from a regional viewpoint suggests varying Archaic settlement patterns in two different physiographic areas.

Matthew P. Purtill's essay, contributed specifically for this publication, chronicles a recent intensive CRM investigation of the Davisson Farm site, a major Archaic occupation on the Ohio River, and provides insights into Late/Terminal Archaic settlement patterns and relationships with contemporary groups to the northeast.

David M. Stothers and Timothy J. Abel discuss some of the ambiguities of the cultural concept of "Early Woodland" and provide an interpretation of Early Woodland mortuary programs, settlement-subsistence patterns, and exchange systems in northwestern Ohio and adjoining sections of Michigan and Ontario. The bases for their work are investigations sponsored through the Western Lake Erie Archaeological Research Program.

James A. Robertson, Douglas C. Kellogg, and Robert G. Kingsley document three sites in the Chartiers Creek drainage south of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which provide an uncommonly detailed view of settlement and subsistence during the transition from Late Archaic through Early and Middle Woodland in the Upper Ohio valley.

The chapter by Anne B. Lee, Andrew R. Sewell, M. Brooke Thompson, Steve Martin, and Tommy Y. Ng on the Early Woodland component of 33RO583 in Ross County, Ohio, was specifically solicited for this publication. A CRM project to investigate a highway right of way in 2001 produced a paired-post structure of a type normally found underlying Adena/Early Woodland burial mounds, but in this case without a mound covering. This rare discovery suggests the site had special, likely ceremonial, functions.

A public archaeology program in Licking County, Ohio, generated the investigation of the Munson Springs site as described by Paul J. Pacheco and Jarrod Burks. Although the site is multicomponent, the culminating event was the construction of an Early Woodland mound. In addition to describing the stratigraphy and cultural remains recovered from the mound, Pacheco and Burks expand their presentation to discuss the regional context of the site, focusing on the Late Archaic through Early Woodland period.

John F. Schweikart investigated two central Ohio examples of the normally elusive Early Woodland habitation sites. The two sites, located during an archaeological investigation of a gas line in Perry County, produced lithics, ceramics, and a posthole pattern suggesting a temporary shelter. These data help expand our understanding of Early Woodland people beyond their mounds and ceremonial sites.

Elliot M. Abrams and Mary F. Le Rouge report on a multiyear research project examining the Early Woodland people of the Hocking River valley. In particular, they chart the contrasts between Early Adena and Late Adena mounds, suggesting that increases in mound size through time reflect increasing levels of political organization among these Early Woodland people.

Jeff Carskadden presents a survey of Early and Late Adena sites, including habitations, mounds, and earthworks, in the Muskingum River Valley area of eastern Ohio. He provides a chronology and discusses the relationships between the various site types and the particular physiographic areas in that region. In addition to locational analysis, he also delves into variations in mortuary practices and identification of individual social groups.

Beth K. McCord and Donald R. Cochran look at Adena manifestations in east-central Indiana. Radiocarbon dates from many of these sites are contemporary with Hopewell; indeed a number of the sites also produced diagnostic Hopewell artifacts. McCord and Cochran conclude that Adena and Hopewell are components of the same ceremonial system.

Sean M. Rafferty's study of tubular smoking pipes focuses on their geographic distribution and their contexts within particular Adena sites. These contexts, plus data derived from ethnohistoric accounts, highlight the likely ritualistic functions that these pipes served.

Ann C. Cramer analyzes the artifacts and field notes of the salvage excavation of the Dominion Land Company site in Columbus in the 1950s. In particular, she defines the ceramic variety, Dominion Thick, as a dominant ceramic type associated with Early Adena in central Ohio.

Martha P. Otto and Elliot M. Abrams

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