Hopewell Copper tools and artifacts

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A Large Hopewell Copper Celt
Billy Ford, Originally published in the Central States Archaeological Journal, Vol.57, No.3, pg.134

More than eighty years ago, Henry Shetrone excavated Seip Mound, one of the largest Hopewell mounds. It was at the center of a semi-circular earthen enclosure.

In 1926, a trench in the center of the mound suddenly collapsed and two workers were trapped. Henry Shetrone visited one of the workers at the hospital and presented her with a copper axe.
Above: Both sides of the Hopewell copper celt from Seip Mound. It is 5 3/8 inches long, 2 1/2 inches wide at the bit and just over 3/8 of an inch thick. Seip Mound is in Ross County, Ohio.

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Copper celts (an axe lacking grooves) have been found at most Hopewell centers in southern Ohio. In cases where numerous copper celts are found at one ceremonial center, they are sometimes clustered in just a few burials.

This specimen was found with cremated remains. Impressions of Hopewell cordage are evident on the left side of this object.

The celt is 3.8 inches (9.7 cm) long, and 2.1 inches (5.4 cm) wide at its broadest point. It weighs 6.2 ounces (176 grams).

Copper objects have been found at many Hopewell sites, but few have produced as Mound City.

Hopewell Culture Copper Collection
Historical object(s) or artifact(s); HOCU-427
Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

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