Finch & Co



A FINE PRE-HISTORIC MISSISSIPPIAN MOUND CULTURE NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN CAHOKIA CARVED STONE AXE HEAD

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CARVED STONE AXE HEAD
WITH HANDWRITTEN LABEL 'HENRY COUNTY. ILLINOIS'
A.D 1000-1500
SIZE: 19 CM LONG – 7½ INS LONG

LITERATURE

THE GREATEST PRE-HISTORIC TEMPLE PLATFORM OR 'MOUND' IN THE AMERICA'S NORTH OF MEXICO WAS 'MONKS MOUND' NOW KNOWN AS CAHOKIA. THIS MASSIVE EARTHWORK IT IS SAID, WAS VISIBLE AN HOUR BEFORE ARRIVING ON FOOT. IT WAS OVER 100 FEET HIGH AND COVERED AN AREA EQUAL TO A DOZEN FOOTBALL FIELDS. CONSTRUCTED OF SOIL RAISED BASKETFUL BY BASKETFUL OVER THE LEVEL OF THE MISSISSIPPIAN FLOODPLAIN TO THE HEIGHT OF A TEN STORY OFFICE BLOCK.

IN 1884 AN ARCHAEOLOGIST JOHN ROGAN DISCOVERED SOPHISTICATED ARTEFACTS IN COPPER, MARINE SHELL AND STONE AT THE CAHOKIA SITE. THESE WERE OF SUCH ARTISTIC REFINEMENT THEY WERE UNPRECEDENTED IN THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE EASTERN WOODLANDS. THIS FINE CARVED STONE AXE WAS MOST PROBABLY A RITUAL OBJECT FROM AN ELITE BURIAL.