

and a very slight knowledge was required for their construction. The often lauded ability displayed in the erection of the effigy mounds, which are a characteristic feature of the archaeology of this region, consisted only in reproducing on the soil in a rude fashion, the animals with which their authors were familiar in their daily life. No greater degree of skill or intelligence is shown than is manifested in the picture writing on the rocks, or the painting on the tents of the early historic Indians. Of the effigies few are well proportioned and many are but clumsy representations. To attempt to correctly identify some of the animals depicted would require a considerable stretch of the imagination. The caudal appendages of many of those intended to represent quadrupeds or reptiles are frequently of greatly exaggerated length. The wings of those designed to portray birds frequently differ greatly in size. The heads, legs and bodies of other effigies are often out of all proportion to each other. Effigies of like type in the same group frequently differ considerably in size, neither is there any special system or order of arrangement observable in many of the groups. The small number of enclosures located in Wisconsin are in no way superior in construction to the embankments surrounding some of the villages of the Indians of post-Columbian times.

No careful student of early Wisconsin history will doubt for a moment the ability, energy and industry of the local tribes, before their partial debasement through the evil influence of the unscrupulous white man. Such of their early village sites as have not yet been entirely wrecked by the plow, plainly indicate by the nature and quantity of their remains what must have been their industry. The accounts of their early wars and forays, of the vast quantities of furs which they procured for the trader, of the large amounts of lead which they mined and of the maple sugar which they manufactured, should close forever any discussion concerning the ability of any of these Indian tribes to erect the best rude and simple earthworks of our state.