Guide to the Beloit College Indian Mounds Collection
AC 64

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Collection Title: Beloit College Indian Mounds collection
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Abstract: This small collection deals with the Indian mounds on the grounds of Beloit College through correspondence, journal articles, and student reports regarding their study, maintenance, and cultural significance. There are also published maps and pamphlets describing the mounds and their contexts.

This finding aid was completed in May, 2012 by Michelle Tom. Contents of finding aid are subject to changes and updates as necessary.
**Historical Note**

The Beloit College campus features 20 conical, linear, and animal effigy mounds built between about AD 400 and 1200. One, in the form of a turtle, has inspired the symbol (and unofficial mascot) of the College. Similar mounds are found throughout southern Wisconsin and adjacent portions of surrounding states. They were built by Native Americans identified by archaeologists as Late Woodland people. These people may include ancestors of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) people and other tribes.

Wisconsin Indian mounds were usually built along bluff tops adjacent to rivers. The Beloit College group illustrates this pattern, as it is situated on high ground overlooking the confluence of the Rock River and Turtle Creek. Early maps indicate more than 20,000 Indian mounds once existed in Wisconsin. Today, fewer than 3000 remain, the others having been destroyed by farming and development. The Beloit College group once totaled 25 mounds; five were leveled unfortunately by building and grounds projects many decades ago. See the 2003 Beloit College Magazine article by Logan Museum of Anthropology director Bill Green for details on the history, study, and preservation of the College mounds.


**Arrangement Note**

This collection has been compiled over the years through separate accessions of various sizes from various offices and individuals, none of which has any accompanying documentation. The original order of the documents is unknown. The arrangement order presented here has been imposed by the College Archives staff.

**Related Materials**

Logan Museum of Anthropology (AC 72)

**Subjects**

Emerson, Joseph, 1821-1900
Emerson, Ralph, 1787-1863
Indians of North America--Wisconsin--Antiquities.
Mounds Wisconsin
## Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Title</th>
<th>Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, 1994</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harriet Dawson Paper, undated</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph and Joseph Emerson Correspondence (transcripts), 1857-1858</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes and Related Correspondence, 1961</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Archeologist Articles, 1903-1913</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maps and Articles, 1882-1905, 1953-2003</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pamphlets</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student and Faculty Reports, 1958-1959, 2005</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Beloit Archaeological Survey: Report of the 2004 Field Season, August, 2005</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs - Indian Mounds</td>
<td>file cabinet</td>
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</tbody>
</table>