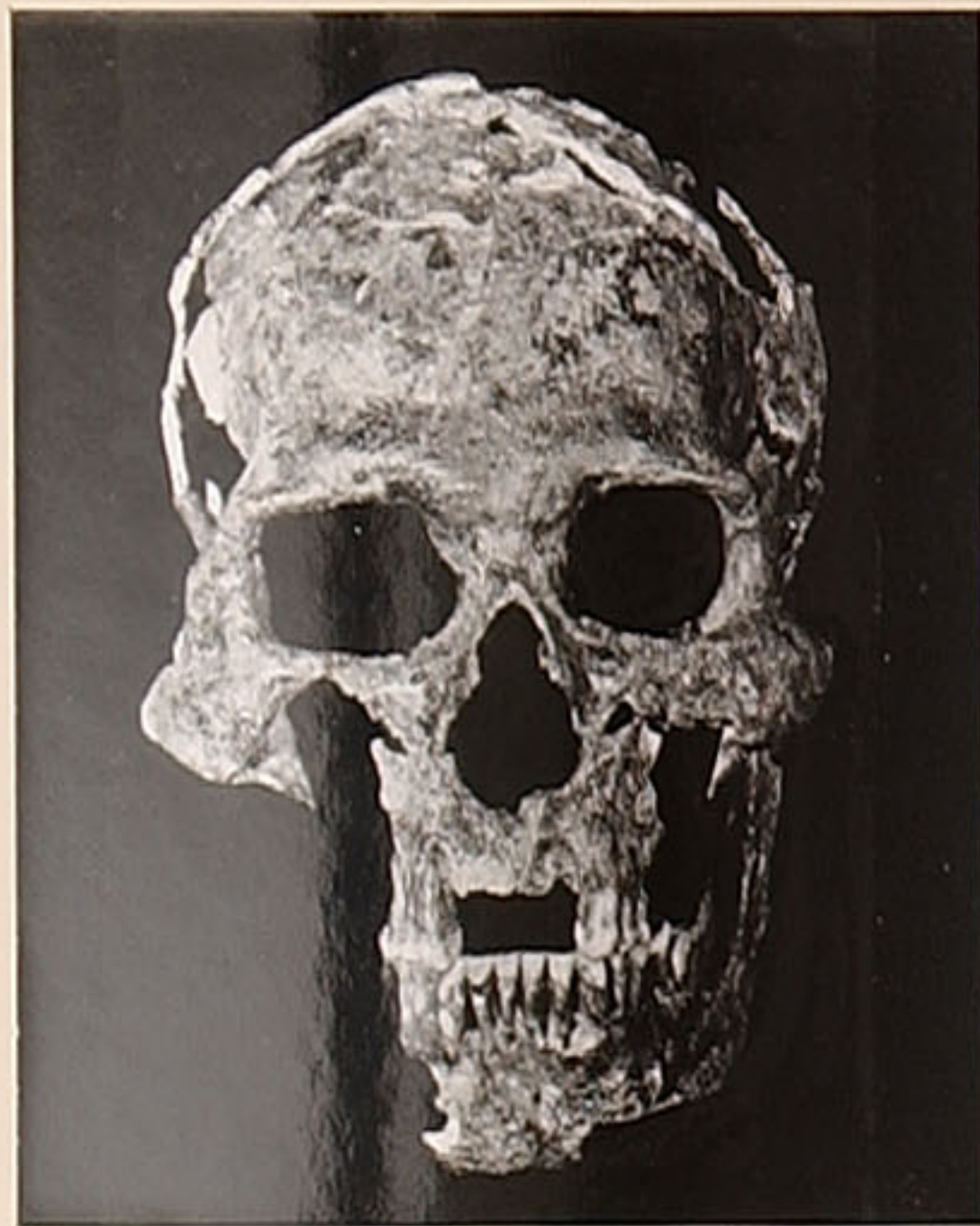


## CUT ANIMAL JAWS



Skull with Upper Incisor Teeth Missing  
From an Adena Mound in Kentucky



Skull with Cut Wolf Jaw Replacing Upper Incisor Teeth



Upper Jaw of Wolf



Lower Jaw of Wolf



Lower Jaw of Dog



Upper Jaw of Dog



Bone Gorget Decorated with Bird of Prey Design



Bone Gorget



## Adena Ceremony

There are many types of evidence that reflect the ceremonial life of the Adena Indians. Among these are mounds and earthworks, burial fixtures, and objects such as engraved tablets. Like other human societies, the Adena had beliefs that explained the nature of the physical and spiritual worlds, how all living things were controlled by those worlds, and how people could draw upon the spirit world for guidance or help. Ceremonies were devised to maintain these beliefs. Some ceremonies likely involved purification or thanksgiving. In some ways, they may have been similar to rituals of Euro-American churches. Other ceremonies might have strengthened group relations and the social order by calling on spiritual ancestors. A shaman may have asked the spirits to heal the sick. A hunter probably prayed for the forgiveness of the animal he had just killed to pacify the beast's spirit and allow the hunter's future success.

Some objects from Adena sites appear to have been used in ceremonies because, unlike a spear point or a clay pot, they do not seem to have any "practical" use. One such group includes cut and worked animal jaws. Objects made from the upper jaws of wolves have been found in a mound in Kentucky and in Greene

County, Ohio. Adena craftsmen had cut the jaws from the wolves' skulls and then removed all but the eight front teeth. This left a spatula-shaped part of the palate. The Kentucky specimen was found near a male human skeleton. The upper front teeth of the skull had been removed while the person was still living. Archaeologists believe that the person may have had his teeth removed on purpose so he could hold the wolf jaw in his own mouth as part of an animal mask. The modern replica in this display shows how the mask would have appeared. The Adena Indians may have been continuing a practice started earlier by the Glacial Kame people. Other mounds have yielded parts of cougar and bear jaws that might have been parts of masks. The worked wolf and dog jaws shown here may have also been used in rituals.

The two round objects in the display appear to have been worn as gorgets, judging from the holes along their margins. Both are made from parts of human skulls. The upper specimen has been incised with a stylized bird design quite like that on engraved stone tablets.

