

throughout the whole country where the pipe was smoked." (9)

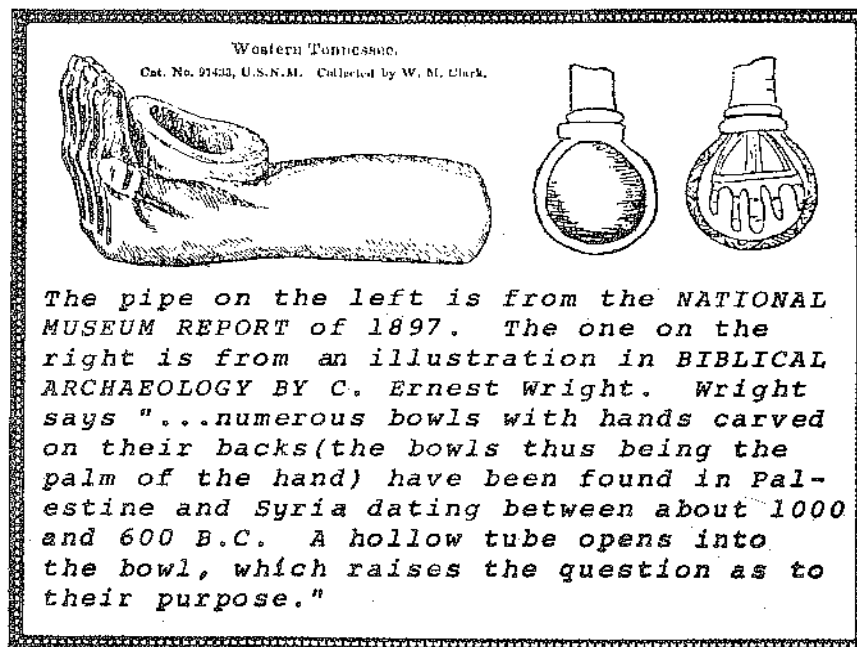
Another early smoking device was the hollow forked stick, or "tobago" as it was called. Some authorities say the tobacco plant derived its name from this stick. It was in use among the Caribbean Indians when Columbus arrived. It was used along with a bowl or coconut shell to burn the tobacco, hemp, sumac, or other smoking mixture. The forks were usually designed to fit the smokers nostrils instead of the mouth. Sometimes two smokers would share a "tobago".

The Hopewell Mound Builders of the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River Valleys, brought pipe making and smoking to a high art form, and it would appear that they completed the process of joining the smoking bowl of the Mediterranean with the smoking tube of the early Americans. This major evolutionary advance is very significant historically. We know from archeological discoveries that "stone pipes were used ritually in the ancient Near East. Such pipes consist of a bowl and stem carved out of one stone. Some have animal heads on the bowl, and some have a hand (with all five fingers) carved in relief on the bottom of the bowl." (10)

"It is interesting," says Gordon, "to note that American Indian pipes sometimes have animal heads carved on the bowl, as well as hands with all five fingers carved beneath the bowl. The heads indicate that the bowls were personified, while the hands not only suggest that the fragrant smoke was being offered, but also that the whole cultic object was called a "hand" (kaf "hand" is the name of such an object in Hebrew)." (11)

"Since such smoking bowls appear during Old Testament times in the Near East, it is possible that the American peace pipes are an adaptation of Near East kaf pipes. They could have been introduced by the Cannanites like those who reached America in 531 B.C. or by later visitors like the Mediterranean merchant prince of about

A.D. 300 from Iximche in the Guatemalan province of Chimaltenango." (12)



The last stage in the evolution of the pipe has gone through many changes, but the principle is the same - a round receptacle for the smoking mixture connected to a mouth-piece by a stem. In the earliest models, the bowl and stem are one, being carved from the same piece of stone, steallite, slate, etc. At some point, the bowl and stem were adapted to the reed to make the modern peace pipe. This adaptation made it possible to both cool the smoke and decorate the pipe with feathers, cords, metal inlays, and carvings. It also gave the pipe a grandeur suitable to its use in the smoking ritual.