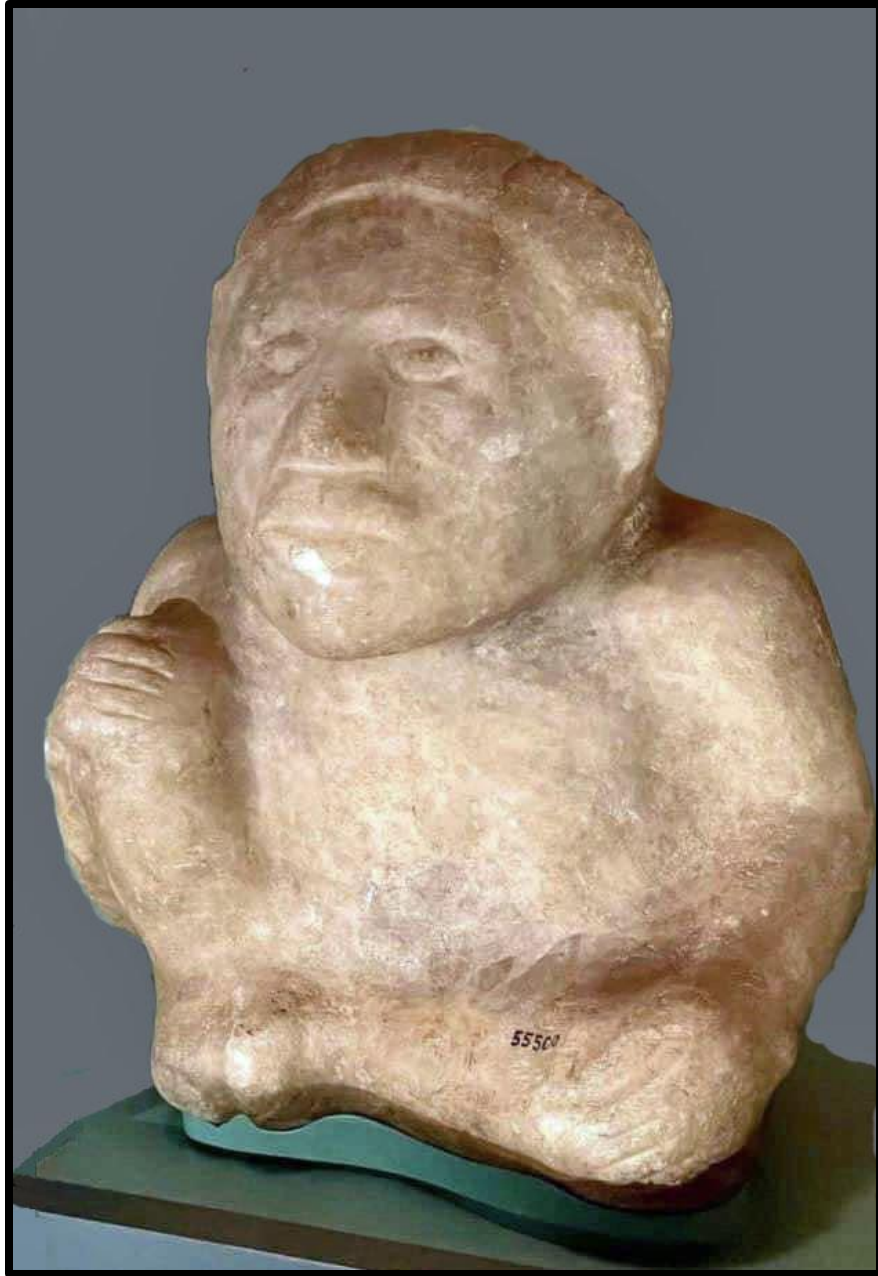


The Mysterious Chester Idol

By Greg Mathis and Brock Buckner

The *Chicago Daily Tribune* Apr 8, 1874 edition, *Farmers, Fruit & Grower*, Anna Illinois, and *Newspaper American Antiquities*, reported “To the Editor of the Chicago Tribune: “Sir: Mr. Thomas M. Perrine, of Anna, Ill., has, for the last five years, given his attention to the acquisition of American antiquities, and has dug from the ancient mounds and burial grounds of Southern Illinois, assembling perhaps the finest collection in the State. It is composed, in part, of agricultural implements formed out of that; pipes; jugs; faced and straight-necked arrows; bone and flint awls; axes; pestles; a stone tube a foot long, which sounds like a horn, and perhaps was used for calling ancient armies to battle; idols of various kinds; together with many curious things hard to name or divine the use of. In contemplating these vestiges of long-lost civilization, the mind is filled with longing desire to unravel the mystery that enshrouds the centuries prior to the discover of America by Columbus. A few days since, as Mr. Perrine was exploring a well-known mound situated at Ware, Illinois. nine miles due west of Anna, Union County, Illinois. Perrine came upon a piece of sculpture that seems to have been a heathen god of great antiquity.” This statue is labeled the Chester Idol.



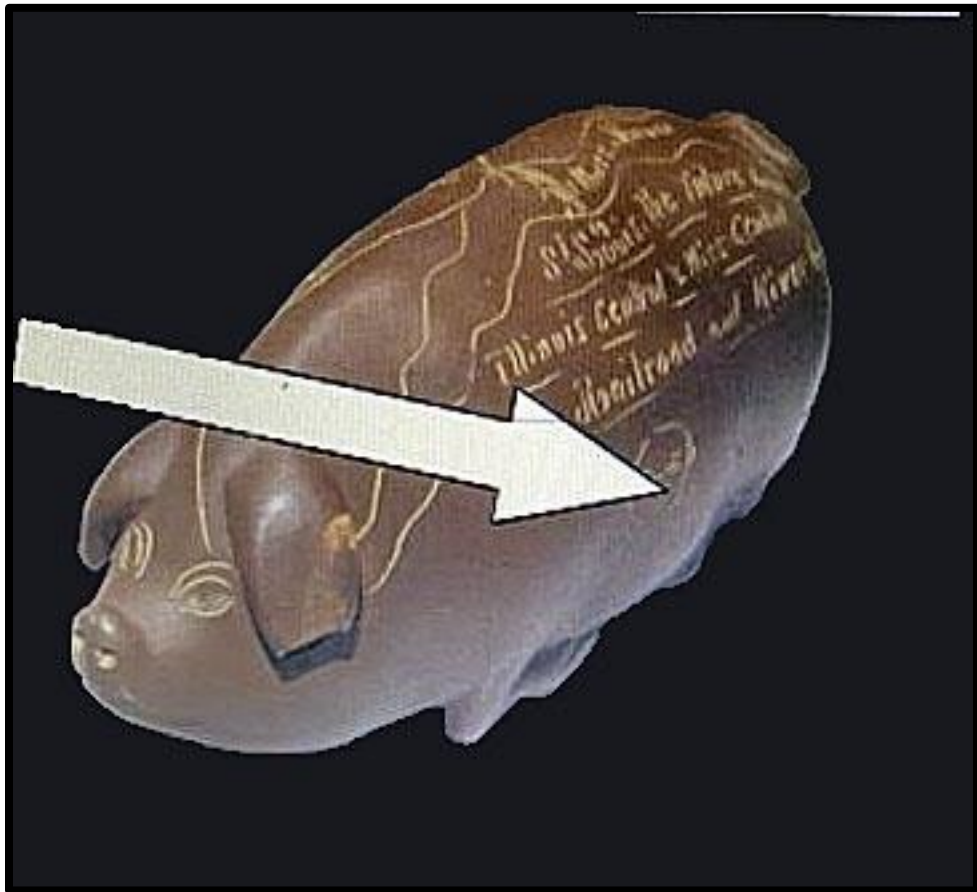
“The impression it gives the beholder is that of a man's head set upon an infant's body, with its legs bent under it, and a hand resting on each knee. It weighs 40 pounds, and is 13 inches high. The chin is prominent, mouth and nose large, and eyes full, with the perceptives large, and reflective faculties only medium. A braided crown, or garland, crosses the head, terminating in front of each ear.”

The rear portion of the cranium being entirely wanting, gives it a flat and uncomely aspect. Around the head and neck it bears evidence of considerable skill in design and polish, though the extremities are still marked with the sculptor's tools. It is formed out of solid, translucent rock, foreign to this continent. and at what remote period it was chiseled, must forever remain a mystery, as it has outlived the race that may have bowed in adoration

This amazing Chester Idol statue is known statewide and is stored in the Chicago Field Museum. The statue was found in 1874 and regarded an important local rare find by Mr. Thomas Perrine of Anna, Illinois. The Kirkpatrick brothers have etched this special mysterious “Chester Idol” on Anna Pottery figural creations, showing their respect and admiration of the Idol statue and of American Indians.



Kirkpatrick hand etching of the “Chester Idol.”



Samples of Kirkpatrick hand etching of the "Chester Idol."



Kirkpatrick hand etching of the “Chester Idol” applied to an exquisite snake jug



Kirkpatrick hand etching of the “Chester Idol” holding banner “Anna, Ill, 1887.”