Dis-US-Pipes-SECC-Effigy

**Human and Animal Form Effigy Pipes**

The human and animal effigy pipes shown come from the Mississippian tradition of the Southeastern U.S. (700 – 1700 A.D.) and the Sioux of the Great Plains region. The two Mississippian human effigy pipes which feature a kneeling woman and a man’s head are made of clay. The bird and frog effigy pipes are made of stone. The Sioux pipes feature a fish and two bird claw motifs holding the pipe bowl. These pipes are made of carved Catlinite, a reddish colored stone which is considered sacred and whose mines were jealously guarded. Animal motifs found in the pipes may signify important animals to either the individual owner or the group. This may relate to animals which were economically important, or may pay tribute to an animal spirit helper, whose presence may have become manifest in a dream. The spirit helper would become the individual’s protector for his entire lifetime, and this protection could extend to the individual’s family or clan.