

# PENNSYLVANIA

ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

OCTOBER 2016



Susquehannock Smoking Pipes from the Strickler site (36La3), Lancaster County. Collection on exhibit at The State Museum of Pennsylvania, PHMC. Photos by Don Giles.

Animal icons have been interpreted in many ways, including clan identification, representations of myths or legends, ceremonial objects, power symbols, or simply as an owner's identification mark. These forms of artistic expression are often a reflection of changes in social order and can be traced to cultural beliefs, feelings or fears.

The Susquehannock Indians who lived in the lower Susquehanna River valley, immortalized images of animals on pipes, combs and other adornments known as effigies. Images of birds are twice as common as those of mammals and reptiles, signaling their importance to the artistic heritage of the Susquehannocks.

The flight patterns of migratory waterfowl marked the changing seasons, and their predictable patterns allowed the Susquehannocks to see order in the universe signifying continuity of the life cycle.

*SAVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE*  
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

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