

SENECA HUNTER GROUP

This group represents a Seneca family clustered about the doorway of their hunting lodge, each individual being engaged in his allotted duties. The old father, who no longer goes to war (indicated by his clothing and hair), is bringing in a fawn. The mother is busy skinning a dry deer skin, while the daughter is cutting strips of venison for "jerking." The elder son is a hunter and warrior and the younger son is burning down a tree which obstructs the yard. The wad of clay about the tree trunk confines the flames. The exterior of the hunting cabin is shown on the left.

The scene depicts Canandaigua lake with Ganundewa, the sacred hill of the Senecas, in the distance.

The time is early morning and the season midspring. The purpose of this group is to depict a Seneca family during the hunting season. The activities represented show the utility of the deer as a source of raw material.

Deer meat was a favorite food, the skin furnished leather for mats, bags, clothing and thongs. The antlers and bones were used for tool material, the jaws for scrapers, the hoofs for ornaments and the hair for stuffing cushions. The group also faithfully represents the various costumes ornamented with hair embroidery.