

nothing was discovered comparable to these northern types either in design or technique, although the eastern Cherokee are quite conservative. This naturally leaves the art of the southern New England tribes to be tentatively classified as a somewhat distinctive branch of the northern and eastern Algonkin field, with some outside affinities.

From information and sketches furnished by Dr. J. Alden Mason, based on studies and photographs which he made of New England baskets in the C. P. Wilcomb collection, Oakland, Cal., it seems that similar stamped splint baskets were found among the Indians as far as the Merrimac River valley in southeastern New Hampshire. Specimens in the collection referred to are supposed to have come from Union, Me., Lenox, Mass., Ipswich, Mass., and Herkimer, N.H. While not numerous enough to permit of discussion, the specimens from this eastern extension of the stamped or painted basket area show a type of design different from that of our southern New England tribes. The patterns are less elaborate. Although it is difficult to account for it, they seem to bear closer resemblances to the designs on Oneida baskets.

North of the southern New England culture sub-area, which appears to have terminated at the Merrimac river, splint basketry and painted designs were replaced by the birch bark basketry and etched designs characteristic of the art of the Wabanaki group.

A few examples of Mohegan and Niantic beadwork have survived the decay of Indian culture in New England. These miscellaneous articles are shown in Plates X and XI. They include moccasins, bags, and portions of costume. Whether they have all been actually made by Mohegans is not certain, except where indicated. One peculiarity of Mohegan art is beadwork upon birch bark. A couple of very old specimens (Figure 21) of this work have come to light. The foundation is the thin bark of the white birch. The beadwork figures are practically all floral, though a few geometrical designs occur; and realism appears as in the butterfly representation. The floral designs seem to be somewhat related to those found in the basket paintings, although they are not so aboriginal in appearance.