

Synopsis of Collection

This is a collection of Indian (native American) artifacts collected by Richard LeBaron Bowen, Jr (b. 1919, d. 2014) primarily around 1930-1940 in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. This would have been a childhood hobby of his that he started when he was 15 years old. The collection has thousands of arrow heads and what might be significant is that he wrote with ink on many of them the location they were found (e.g., Rehoboth, Barrington, North Turo, Brownlee's Salt Pond, and many other places). There are a wide variety of stones including knife blades, arrowheads, adzes, drills, chisels and tools.

Description

I have 8 file boxes (and a single piece of wood) that are well indexed and photographed. The full set measures 41" x 18x14" (6 cubic feet).

Box	Description
BX_2501	Contains 8 "cigar shaped" stones
BX_2502	Contains 24 stones: 16 adze's & 6 stones with holes.
BX_2503	Contains 19 stones
BX_2504	26 stones with grooves near base (to tie to a stick)
BX_2505	Contains a variety of objects
BX_2506	Various Arrowheads & written documentation
BX_2507	Various Arrowheads
BX_2508	Stones that appear to be front the Midwest (Arizona)
BX_2509	Not in a box - - a single 22 inch piece of wood.

Supporting files:

- /pictures/ - I have a photo of the content of each file box, and a few close ups.

Interested parties (possibly, I have not contacted anyone yet).

- Robert Preucel; Director of Haffenreffer Museum.¹
- TOMAQUAG Museum in Exeter, RI dedicated to the study of local Indians.²
- Brown has a large program on native American and indigenous studies.³
- South Kingston Museum of Primitive Art and Culture.⁴

¹ <https://vivo.brown.edu/display/rpreucel>

² <https://www.tomaquagmuseum.org/home/>

³ <https://www.brown.edu/academics/native-american-and-indigenous-studies/faculty>

⁴ <http://primitiveartmuseum.org>

The following have been indexed in June 2024.

BX 2501: Contains 8 cigar shaped objects (photo)

- 6 x long cigar shaped stones, approximately 2-3" diameter and lengths from 7-11"
- 2 x square bottom arrow shaped stones, approximately 2-3" diameter and 5" high.

BX 2502: Contains 24 stones

- 16 adze (a cutting tool, instead of 'spear head' more like a chisel). Several of these have extremely smooth undersides (photo 1)
- 6 stones with holes (photo 2)

BX 2503: Contains 19 stones

- 2 large clubs (photo 1)
- 1 large spear (photo 1)
- 2 small tear-drop shaped stones (photo 1)
- 9 oval stones with carved grooves, each less than 4" (photo 2)
- 5 round stones (photo 2)

BX 2504: Contains 26 stones that all have a groove cut around them near the base (apparently to tie to a stick).

- 10 larger stones: 5" width, 9" height (photo 1)
- 16 smaller stones: 3" width, 7" height (photo 2)

BX 2505: Contains a variety of different objects.

- Fragments (11) of soap stone bowl
- Large Red Arrow (~ 8-10") and Smaller Red Arrow (~4-5")
- 5" ceramic bowl with chunk missing
- 3.5" stone bowl
- AI-42: Open box with many arrowheads
- AI-43: Letter containing stone that is marked "Rogers William Rock, 1878, E. Salton, MD." This stone, Slate Rock, existed until 1877 when a city used an excess amount of dynamite clear around the stone.¹ It seems very plausible that the city sold off chunks of the stone. There is now a monument on Gano Street, between Power & Williams that goes down to the Seekonk River where Roger allegedly paddled from Massachusetts to Providence.²
- AI-44 Hatchet with letter attached describing where it was purchased in 1937 in Little Compton.
- AI-45: Letter with very thin metal arrow
- AI-46: Bag of ~100 tiny beads
- AI-47: Round leather "tambourine-like" object
- AI-48: Drill, shark fin shaped (stone, or ceramic).

BX 2506: Various Arrowheads & written documentation

- AI-1 – 8"x14" cardboard with a large "rod like" stone glued to it. 11 arrowhead that fell off board in plastic bag.
- AI-3: 15 stones glued to board: South Kingstown, RI"

¹ <https://www.rihs.org/slate-rock-the-landing-place-of-roger-williams/>

² <https://sowamsheritagearea.org/wp/slate-rock-park/>

- AI-4: Manilla folder with descriptions. Blue paper folded around a single stone found in Rehoboth by Olive; a letter from Harold Bowditch of Boston describing some Indian stones he mailed him 1937; Box #2 description of several items; Chronological diary of things added to his collection in 1935/1936 on purchases and finds; hand written letter from his father in 1936; various maps of Indian locations; a few essays by 14 year old Richard. Article from R.I.H.S. "Indian Implements found in Rhode Island," V. XVII, no. 4 October 1924. Richard's father was very involved with the RIHS (President, c. 1950) and some of the collection may be in pictures of the article.
- AI-6: 8 arrow heads, mailed to RLB @ Princeton in 1937 from "Conrad Hellinger" of NYC.
- AI-11: 26 stones. At the bottom of the box is an 8x10 paper with the stones "outlined" the stones shape, they are all from North Truro, Mass and the stone type is also listed (e.g., quartz, tannish red). There is also a two page inventory of stones (similar to the list for A7) and on this version he has written "OK" next to 29 stones.
- AI-24: Cigar box with yellow bag with three small arrow heads, 7 stones in the cigar box.
- AI-25: A small box of stones mailed to Princeton from Harold Bowditch of Boston (an M.D. who was interested in genealogy and a friend of Richard's father), one stone has paper wrapper around it and it says "NC."
- AI-27: 12 stones mounted in a wooden box with detailed descriptions of where they are found.
- AI-30: A metal box of 15 stones. This contains a note dated June 16, 1937 and references the "Orchard" at "Bowen Farm." Several are marked with "'37" (1937).
- AI-31: Box of 45 stones of odd shapes and is labeled "Knowles" several stones have additional location written on them (e.g., Bowen's Farm in Rehoboth).
- AI-32: A letter envelope of two small stones says "2 stone found RLB, Jr on Christmas Day 1943, on Redway Farm in Rehoboth, and pictured in Early Rehoboth, Volume 1, page 148."
- AI-40, AI-41: 2 x cigar boxes with redish stones each with about six layers of stones between cotton.

BX 2507: Various Arrowheads

- AI-2: 10 arrowheads that were originally glued to a board labeled "Rehoboth, Mass"
- AI-20: This is a large set of arrowheads many of which have the location of their "find" written on the stone. Some are dated 1936, 1937. I grouped them by location into smaller bags. Brown's Wickford (10), Barrington (6), East Greenwich (3), Brownlee's Salt Pond (9), Westport, RI (SIC) (6), Knowle's Rehoboth (6), Bowen's Rehoboth (6), North Truro (19), Misc. Towns (20), a bag of unmarked (~ 50 stones).
- AI-21: 8 large and **very nice** arrow heads, 1 rock, small pipe.
- AI-50: 47 "white stone" arrowheads
- AI-51: 10 "green stone" arrowheads
- AI-52: 21 medium sized arrowheads
- AI-53: 28 large arrowheads. Some stones are labeled with date and origin.
- AI-54: 50 "misc" small arrowheads
- AI-55: 20 "light colored stone" arrowheads
- AI-56: 5 "location named" arrow heads (Milton, Mass; Vial's Rehoboth; North Turo, Mass "10"; Bowen Farm Rehoboth; Brown's Wickford, "97").

BX 2508: These are stones that do not appear to be from New England. One box is labelled "Yellow Stone" and we know Richard did several cross country trips, spending time in the mid-Western states.

- AI-7: A box of arrowheads each with a number penned to the stone along with a two page summary of the location each stone was found (all from North Truro, Mass and Riverside Gill, Mass.)
- AI-8: About 40 black and brown shiny stones (coal?).
- AI-9: Cigar box labeled "Fossils from Badlands Petrified tree, and fossils from yellowstone."

American Indian Arrow heads and other objects

- AI-10: Box labeled “Arrowheads” with four partitions.
- AI-12: 24 arrow heads. A few of these are very nicely carved with “jagged edges” on the arrow head.
- AI-13: Box of stone fragments. These look more like pottery items; this cigar box is labeled by hard to read: “Salt from Salt Lake Desert³; Tusayan (?) Ruin Pottery; Arrow heads”
- AI-14: Large set of arrowheads, mostly very light in color (quartz & a white stone) and 6 reddish round disks.
- AI-22: 44 reddish odd shaped rocks with many sides.
- AI-23: 107 stones and small handbag. There are 47 stones in the picture and 60 more in the box.
- AI-26: A small Kodak box with a large number of reddish stones.
- AI-28: A small bag of about 20 stones, mostly arrowhead shaped.
- AI-29: 42 arrow heads in a plastic bag (in the photo it was a ratty small box).
- AI-60: Suede pouch with bead work

BX 2509: Wooden object (this is not in a box, just loose, because its 22 inches and would not fit in the other boxes.

³ In Utah: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Salt_Lake_Desert