These images were selected to provide a snapshot of the collections from the Angel Mounds State Historic site (12Vg1). The items depicted include those that are commonly found in domestic settings, as well as items that likely had more restricted and power-laden uses and meanings for the people who lived at Angel.

This is a first pass through the collections organized generally by material category. We will be rebuilding reference collections and welcome your input.

The assemblage as presented is at the site level. As such it provides a snapshot of materials and items that would have been available to the people living at the site.

The catalog also tells us about the state of preservation of items that comprise the archaeological record of the site.
Angel Mounds (12Vg1) Collection

- Indiana Historical Society/Indiana University
  - Donations
  - Excavations – 1939-1964 directed by Glenn Black
  - In excess of 2 million objects

- Indiana University GBL (post 1971)
  - Excavations – IU Field Schools directed by James Kellar and Christopher Peebles
  - Approaching 1 million objects

- Currently collections are being rejuvenated
  - Rehoused
  - Database enhancements
  - Reference collection work

Negative painted plate rim – sun circle symbol

Negative painted plate rim – woodpecker symbol

Rim Rider sherd – owl
Ceramic containers

Nearly 2 million sherds
Approximately 100 whole or partial vessels
1 -Bottles, 2 - bowls, 3 - jars, and 4 –negative painted plates: storage, cooking, serving, transport

Various sizes, including miniatures
Plain and decorated
Examples span pre-and post-occupation of Angel

Styles of decoration and form reveal connections with other Mississippian sites, including Cahokia and Kincaid and others

Shell, stone, clay, minerals, repurposed sherds as temper

Shell temper
Fabric impressed

Jar with handles
Bowl, plain
Jar without handles
Bowl, negative painted

Effigy handles-bowls

Miniature vessels

Negative Painted Plate Sherds
Ceramic containers

Bowl effigy handles applied to opposite sides of the bowl lip

Mammal
Bird
Fish and Frog
Conch or gourd
Human

Ramey Incised Jars

90 rim and body sherds with curvilinear scroll patterns

Paste is less fine and surface less smoothed and polished compared to Ramey Incised jars from Cahokia
Other Ceramic Items

Nearly 20,000

1- Rattles – human, owl, deer, duck

2- Figurines – owl, human, snake/grooved (not pictured – bear and dog)

3- Ear plugs and spools

4- Discs

5- Spindle whorls

6- Fired clay balls

7- Pottery trowels
Chipped Stone

20,000+

Knives – lance / spear points

Arrow points

Hoes and sharpening flakes

Adzes

Flake scrapers and cutting tools

Drills

Ramey Knife

Hoe Blade

Triangular arrow points

Top row: 3 Blades (Middle Woodland origin?)

Bottom row: L-R: hoe flake, scraper, 2 drills
Use Polish from digging in soil

200x magnification shows polish through reflected light
Ground Stone

3,000+

Axes, adzes and celts—woodworking and weaponry—would have been inserted into a wooden handle

Discoidals

Abrading and grinding stones

Anvils

Hammerstones

Sandstone tablets
Animal Bone Items

Bone and shell items
2,100

Fishing
Hunting
Music
Scarification/tattooing?
Weaving/sewing
Personal adornment
Handles
Manufacturing

1- Awl
2- Fish hook
3- Needle
4- Bear canine pendant
5- Bone ring
6- Handle
7- Unknown

Antler tines

Flute – bird bone

Deer mandible scraping tool
Shell Items

Scraping tools

Hoes

Beads

Scraping tool – mussel shell

Hoe - digging implement – mussel shell

Disk-shaped beads–marine shell?
Daub

Painted (red, black, buff color, and blue-gray pigments) late 13th century in limited areas of the east village.

Plastered and Painted Walls – colors and geometric design elements similar to negative painted plate iconography. Ethnohistoric and archaeological sources suggest that painted walls occur on a limited number of structures and places.

Cane impressions on a fragment of undecorated daub used in wattle and daub wall construction.

Rebecca M. Barzilai (2017) The Painted Daub of the Angel Site (12Vg1). Indiana Archaeology 12(2).
Smoking pipes

Nearly 300

Made from clay and stone – most examples are clay

Plain and decorated
Minerals, Crystals, Pigment
Stones, Fossils

700+
1- Copper
2- Cannel Coal
3- Fluorite
4- Mica
5- Ochre – red and yellow
6- Hematite
7- Mammoth or mastodon foot bone
[Not shown – galena, quartz crystals]
Plants and Animals

600,000+
Subsistence, tools, medicine, pigments, ornamentation, trade, clothing, performance / ritual practices

Corn – cobs, cupules and kernels
Bean
Squash
Starchy seed plants
Wood (southern yellow pine, hickory)
River Cane
Hickory, pecan, pignut
Wild cherry, grape, mulberry
Paw paw

Deer
Elk
Bear
Bob cat
Turkey
Fish and shellfish
Ducks
Swan
Birds (eagle, hawks, quail, woodpecker, blue jay)
Turtle
Small mammals
Reptiles

Charred corn cob
Elk vertebrae, fused
River otter
Euro-American Items

Gun Flint

Copper Penny—early 19th century