

In addition to individual pipes, many tribes had medicine-pipes which they claimed came to them from the Great Spirit. The Omaha had one made in the shape of a buffalo-track, which is now ~~in the~~ on exhibit at the Academy of Sciences, Lincoln Park, Chicago. This pipe was used in a ceremony ~~which celebrated~~ ^{the beginning of} the gift of the buffalo to man by the Great Spirit. It was made in that shape because the track of the buffalo made on the earth ~~represented~~ ^{sealed} the final arrival of the gift.

Probably the most remarkable pipe now in the world is in the possession of the Arapaho. This is the famous Flat-Pipe, which was carried, according to their tribal myth, by the Creator of this world while he was planning it. It is made of stones of two colors and has an unusual shape. Only According to the Arapah

The most remarkable pipe in the world is probably that called the Flat-Pipe, now in the possession of the Arapahoes. According to their belief, this pipe was carried by the creator of our earth as he wandered over the face of the waters planning it. The Flat-Pipe is strictly guarded by a specially appointed Keeper. He lives in a tepee made and decorated with sacred paintings especially for the Pipe. This tent is always pitched in the very center of the camp. The Pipe is kept wrapped in many folds of buck-skin, and is only unwrapped when the faithful bring presents to the Keeper. Then they make offerings and pray over it. Thus the Keeper's salary is paid. When travelling, this pipe is carried on the Keeper's back. It must never be carried in a wagon or on a horse.

Only one white man has seen this pipe- a missionary who had helped the Keeper in a way that warmed his heart. Other men with money and influence behind them have tried to see it, but without ~~success~~ getting even a glimpse of this sacred object. To the Arapaho it is as the Ark of the Covenant.