

## 38. VILLAGE OF SECOTON

### A. DRAWING BY JOHN WHITE *Plate 35*

A bird's-eye view of an unenclosed Indian village of thirteen houses of light pole and mat construction. At the top, a path leads from water (a stream or pond) to the main group of houses where it widens into a central thoroughfare running down through the settlement. On the street, in the centre of the main group of houses, a spoke-shaped fire attended by two Indians is burning and below, further down the path, are shown mats spread out on which are three large circular eating vessels and six small objects of indefinite form. One squatting and two sitting figures are seen eating and one man armed with a bow stands by. To the right of the path and street are three cornfields each at a different stage of growth. The top field of ripe maize contains a small hut, open at one side, which may shelter a seated figure and is mounted on a platform with four legs. A path to the right separates this field from the two lower ones in which crops of unripe and very young maize are growing. The last has faint indications perhaps representing hills around the bases of the plants. To the left of the unripe maize is a house with a small fenced yard before the door which is in the centre of the end wall. The houses to the left of the road are set among (or near to) birch-like trees. Among the trees to the left are two houses with three figures nearby, two of them apparently carrying bows. Four other figures are to be seen among the main group of houses, which are shown with open ends, several revealing the pole framework and side platforms, while a few have small window-like openings. At the bottom right a path separates the lowest cornfield from the ceremonial area and is bordered by a row of seven posts. Below this is a circle of seven posts, the tops of which are possibly carved in the form of human heads, and on a path around it nine Indians (apparently all men), with feathers in their hair and waving gourd rattles, are dancing. Some wear a single apron-skirt and others apparently are naked or wear breech-clouts only. One Indian crouches beside a post outside the circle to the right and six others squat or sit in line on the roadway to the left. A further path is indicated at the bottom right, below the dancers. To the left of the roadway, opposite the circle, a path surrounds four posts within which a spoke-shaped log fire is burning, a fifth post being seen to the right near where the path joins the road. The heads of the posts are again possibly carved like the others. To the left of the fire is a hut with the end covered and below, at the bottom left, is a house taller than the rest which may have openings in the end wall. A short path leads from it to the road.

**Background Information:** Roanoke the Lost Colony was a group of English people who came to America around the year 1585, just 22 years before the Jamestown colony and 37 years before pilgrims set foot in Massachusetts. They came to America in order to start a new colony that would bring many settlers to the new world. In 1585 Englishmen John White and Thomas Harriet were sent to Roanoke Island, off the coast of North Carolina to record life of the Algonquin Indian. In 1587 White returned to be the head of the colony of settlers, welcomed with a feast from the Croatoans, the native people of the island. Virginia Dare, White's granddaughter, was born and was the first English baby born in North America. In 1588 White returned to England for supplies. He was to return a year later, but war between England and Spain limited ships to the war effort. Almost three years later he returned only to find the colony had deserted the island. The word CROATOAN was carved on a post and CRO carved on a tree. The Roanoke settlement of 117 men, women and children disappeared without much of a trace and became known as The Lost Colony. Today it still remains a mystery.