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Documentation of Caddo Ceramic Vessels in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Holdings from Goliad State Park

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On February 6, 2015, three Caddo vessels from an unknown site or sites were documented at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Archeology Laboratory, where the standard suite of metadata was collected, accompanied by photographs and 3D models of each vessel. While the donor of these vessels remains unknown, stylistic and technological attributes can be used to posit the potential region of origin.

There are three 3D models included in this report of NAGPRA documentation. To manipulate, measure, and otherwise quantify variability in the models, this document must be downloaded, then opened in either Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader. These models are provided in Appendix I, and include directions regarding how to manipulate them.

Access to color (texture) data is available only with the permission of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma.

### Introduction

Three ancestral Caddo ceramic vessels from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) holdings at Goliad State Park are documented herein. These vessels were accessioned by TPWD in 1982, but there are no records available for who donated the vessels to Goliad State Park, or the site (or sites) where these Caddo vessels came from in East Texas. These three vessels would have originated from one or more excavated Caddo burials in a family or community cemetery, likely excavated by a local resident of East Texas and not by a professional archaeologist. Ceramic vessels were common funerary offerings in East Texas Caddo burials, and they likely held food or liquids to accompany the deceased on their journey to the House of Death in the Sky (Perettula and Nelson 1998).

In this report, we provide detailed stylistic and technological documentation for the three Caddo ceramic vessels, along with 2D photographs and 3D models. Based on the stylistic and technological attributes available from the vessels, we also discuss the likely location of the burial/cemetery where these vessels were recovered in East Texas.

### Ceramic Vessel Documentation

| Site Name or Site Number: Unknown |
| Vessel No.: 82-49.1 |
| Vessel Form: Bottle with a tapered neck |
| Non-plastics and Paste: grog |
| Rim and Lip Form: Direct rim and rounded lip |
| Core Color: B (fired and cooled in a reducing or low oxygen environment, see Teltser 1993:Figure 2b). |
| Interior Surface Color: very dark grayish-brown |
| Exterior Surface Color: very dark grayish-brown |
| Wall Thickness (in mm.): rim, 6.7 mm |
| Interior Surface Treatment: none |
| Exterior Surface Treatment: burnished |
| Height (in cm.): 19.5 |
| Orifice Diameter (in cm.): 3.7 |
| Diameter at Bottom of Rim or Neck (in cm.): 4.9; maximum body diameter is 13.0 cm |
| Diameter (in cm.) and Shape of Base: 7.1; circular and flat |
| Estimated Volume (in liters): 0.55 |

Decoration (including motif and elements when apparent): There are two widely-spaced horizontal engraved lines on the upper vessel body, and the body itself has been divided into four engraved panels that have concentric circles and a central small circle with vertical and horizontal lines that end in excised triangles (Figure 1); this decorative element has been considered to represent a peyote button or a circle with a cross (Gadus 2013:Figure 5). The panels are divided by vertical...
brackets with open or hatched triangle elements at the upper and lower ends of the bracket, and the mid-section of the brackets have hatched or cross-hatched zones.

There are also rectangular cross-hatched areas in the curvilinear engraved zones above and below the concentric circles (Figure 1; Appendix IA).

Pigment Use and Location on Vessel: red ochre-rich pigment rubbed in the engraved lines.

Site Name or Site Number: Unknown
Vessel No.: 82-49.2
Vessel Form: Carinated bowl (Figure 2)
Non-plastics and Paste: grog

Rim and Lip Form: Direct rim, and rounded, exterior folded lip.
Core Color: F (fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air, an oxidizing environment).

Interior Surface Color: dark reddish-brown; fire clouds on the rim and body.
Exterior Surface Color: dark brown; fire clouds on the rim, body, and base
Wall Thickness (in mm.): rim, 6.1 mm
Interior Surface Treatment: burnished on the rim, smoothed on the body
Exterior Surface Treatment: burnished

Height (in cm.): 15.2
Orifice Diameter (in cm.): 23.4
Diameter at Bottom of Rim or Neck (in cm.): 23.2
Diameter (in cm.) and Shape of Base: 8.4; circular and flat
Estimated Volume (in liters): 3.2

Decoration (including motif and elements when apparent): The rim has an engraved slanting scroll motif repeated four times around the vessel; the central scroll element is an engraved oval with an inner oval with a single bisecting engraved line (Figure 2). The engraved oval is a not particularly common Ripley Engraved decorative element. The scroll fill zones above and below the central slanting scroll line has negative ovals formed by excised brackets; the larger of the negative ovals have a centrally placed excised dot (Figure 2; Appendix IB).
The engraved oval elements in this motif (see Figure 2) resemble the eye and beak on Johns Engraved vessels (see Turner 1978:Figure 31a-c; Gadus 2013:Figure 9) in mortuary assemblages from Titus phase cemeteries in the Big Cypress Creek basin. Similar eye motif elements have been documented in Titus phase vessel assemblages from sites in the Little and Big Cypress Creek basins in Gregg and Harrison counties (Perttula et al. 2014a). Other Titus phase carinated bowls in the Gregg County Historical Museum collections have oval-shaped engraved eye elements (Perttula et al. 2014b:Figures 33d and 79d), and there is also a carinated bowl from the ca. A.D. 1680-1830 Kinsloe phase Millsey Williamson site (41RK3) (see Perttula and Nelson 2014) on a tributary to the Sabine River.

Pigment Use and Location on Vessel: none

Type and Variety (if known): Ripley Engraved, var. unspecified.

Site Name or Site Number: Unknown

Vessel No.: 82-49.3

Vessel Form: Conjoined vessel, with a bottle body conjoined to the upper panel of a compound bowl (Figure 3). The compound bowl section has two opposed suspension holes (4.2 mm in diameter)

Non-plastics and Paste: grog

Rim and Lip Form: Everted rim and rounded, exterior folded lip.

Core Color: B (fired and cooled in a reducing or low oxygen environment).

Interior Surface Color: very dark gray.

Exterior Surface Color: very dark grayish-brown.

Wall Thickness (in mm.): rim, 5.7 mm

Interior Surface Treatment: smoothed on the upper vessel section of the rim.

Exterior Surface Treatment: burnished

Height (in cm.): 12.7

Orifice Diameter (in cm.): 10.9

Diameter at Bottom of Rim or Neck (in cm.): 8.8

Diameter (in cm.) and Shape of Base: 6.4; circular and flat.

Estimated Volume (in liters): 0.83

Decoration (including motif and elements when apparent): The upper Ripley Engraved compound bowl section of the vessel has a row of excised pendant triangles under the vessel lip, and a mid-
panel zone with a series of three vertical SZ elements (cf. Gadus 2013:237) and one negative S element separated by a horizontal-curvilinear scroll and upper and lower open pendant triangles (Figure 3; Appendix IC).

The lower section of this vessel has a Wilder Engraved, var. unspecified motif that features four separate curvilinear scroll lines that hook around each other but do not touch (see Figure 3). The upper scroll lines begin from the apex of large pendant triangle elements at the top of the bottle body. The triangle elements have a single negative circle within them formed by the excising of triangular-shaped areas at the three corners of the large triangles.

**Pigment Use and Location on Vessel:**
white kaolin clay pigment in the engraved lines

**Type and Variety (if known):** Wilder Engraved, var. unspecified

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**Cultural Context and Summary**

The decorative motifs recognized on the three vessels in the TPWD collections from Goliad State Park indicate that they are from a Late Caddo period, Titus phase (ca. A.D. 1430-1680) burial or burials in an East Texas cemetery. Ripley Engraved and Wilder Engraved carinated bowls and bottles are the two most common engraved fine ware vessels found in Titus phase burials in the Sulphur, Big Cypress, Little Cypress, and Sabine River basins in East Texas (Figure 4) (Perttula 1998, 2012, 2013:Figure 12; Perttula and Selden 2014; Thurmond 1990; Turner 1978).

The varieties of Ripley Engraved and Wilder Engraved represented in the TPWD collections are not particularly temporally significant within the 250 year extent of the Titus phase, but the excised pendant triangles in the conjoined bottle-compound bowl (see Figure 3) suggests that this vessel (and perhaps the other two) dates after ca. A.D. 1600, because excised pendant triangles are a distinguishing element on a late variety of the type, namely Ripley Engraved, var. McKinney. The engraved oval eye element on the Ripley Engraved carinated bowl (see Figure 2) may have spatial significance, given that other Ripley Engraved or Johns Engraved vessels with this decorative element occur in several Titus phase vessel assemblages in the central Big Cypress Creek basin and in the eastern Little Cypress Creek basin (Figure 5), and also occur in an historic Caddo context in a cemetery along a small tributary to the Sabine River.

The documentation of these three ancestral Caddo ceramic vessels, funerary offerings, adds to an ever-increasing East Texas Caddo ceramic
vessel stylistic, vessel forms and technological database, particularly that of Titus phase ceramic assemblages (Perttula et al. 2014a, 2014b). The continuing and detailed study of Caddo ceramic vessel assemblages can address numerous research issues, including examining the importance of ceramics in the cooking and serving mortuary offerings, and as a means to establish and maintain the social identity of contemporaneous Caddo groups. Their study can also be used to establish and refine the chronology and temporal span of the Caddo occupation of East Texas, and demonstrate the geographic extent and interrelationships of Caddo groups.

**Acknowledgments**

We express our gratitude to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma for access and permission to document this collection of NAGPRA vessels. For their help with the collections, we thank Aina Dodge, Marni Francell, and Toni Fischer.

**3D Data**

All 3D data collected as a part of this endeavor will be made publicly accessible in the digital repository of the Center for Regional Heritage Research at Stephen F. Austin State University. Additional information regarding data collection and interactive 3D models of each can be found in Appendix I. Per our agreement with the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, these scans do not include the texture (color) data due to the assumed articulation of these vessels with a Caddo burial. Access to texture data is only permitted with written permission from the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma.

![Figure 4. Titus phase area in East Texas.](image)

![Figure 5. Known Titus phase cemeteries in East Texas.](image)
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Appendix I: 3D Documentation

The color 3D documentation of the three Caddo NAGPRA vessels discussed in this report are available from the TPWD repository, and can only be disseminated with permission of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma. All 3D data in this report were collected with a ZScanner700CX and version 2.0 of VXelements using the scanner direct control function in Geomagic Design X. While the color scans are restricted by the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma to accompany NAGPRA documentation efforts for the laboratory only, scan data--minus the texture (color) file--are made publicly available on the digital repository (CRHR:ARCHIVE) of the Center for Regional Heritage Research at Stephen F. Austin State University.

All 3D scans were aligned using the 3-2-1 alignment in Design X. Each scan was then exported as an ASCII .stl (3D-print ready) and an ASCII .ply (morphometrics-ready) files and are included in the digital repository (CRHR:ARCHIVE) that will launch on March 1, 2015. All metadata included in this documentation effort will accompany the scan data into the digital repository. We encourage researchers to use these data to augment comparative studies of ceramic design as well as morphometric analyses.

Those 3D data collected during the course of this documentation effort will be employed in our ongoing analysis of 3D morphometrics and symmetry.
Appendix IC. 3D documentation of Caddo NAGPRA Vessel TPWD 82-49.3. This vessel can be rotated and otherwise manipulated by downloading this document. To rotate the vessel, click the image and wait for it to load, then click (left) and hold while moving the mouse to move the image.