At the Confluence of GIS and Geochemistry: Identifying Geochemical Correlates of Ripley Engraved Caddo Ceramics

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Spatial Patterns in the Geochemistry of Ripley Engraved

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INTRODUCTION

Over the last 17 years, 1308 instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA) samples have been run on Caddo ceramic vessels recovered from 186 archaeological sites throughout the ancestral Caddo region. The Caddo INAA sample was produced by the University of Missouri Research Reactor (UMRR), and is only surpassed in size by datasets from the Valley of Mexico and the Mimbres and Jornada Mogollon regions of the American Southwest. However, the complex nature of this dataset presents a substantive challenge regarding the interpretation of geochemical results (see Ferguson 2010). These differ-

ences have led to a re-evaluation of the Caddo database by Murr (Ferguson et al. 2010), but challenges in determin-
in the geochemical variability in clays from across the ancestral Caddo region relies first upon well-known 15th to late 17th century A.D. Caddo ceramic type of Ripley Engraved (see Suhm and Jelks 1962).

The methods we employ to illustrate geochemical variability in clays from across the ancestral Caddo region relies first upon well-known ceramic types of Ripley Engraved (see Suhm and Jelks 1962). Subsequent to this identifi-
cation, a calcium correction was applied only to geochemical results from shell- and bone-temped samples due to the ca-
descent of calcium-rich tempers to dilute certain elements associated with clays (Cogswell et al. 1998; Steponaitis et al. 1996). The methods we employ to illustrate geochemical variability in clays from across the ancestral Caddo region relies first upon well-known ceramic types of Ripley Engraved (see Suhm and Jelks 1962).

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