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Documentation of Caddo Vessels from Red River Sites in Bowie and Red River Counties, Texas, in the Collections of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

Timothy K. Perttula
Center for Regional Heritage Research, Stephen F. Austin State University

Mark Walters
Bo Nelson

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Documentation of Caddo Vessels from Red River Sites in Bowie and Red River Counties, Texas, in the Collections of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

Abstract
We recently had the opportunity to document three ancestral Caddo ceramic vessels from Red River Caddo sites in Bowie and Red River counties, Texas, that are held by the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. Only one vessel is from a known and recorded site: Bentsen-Clark (41RR41).

Keywords
American Southeast, Texas, Caddo

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Introduction

We recently had the opportunity to document three ancestral Caddo ceramic vessels from Red River Caddo sites in Bowie and Red River counties, Texas, that are held by the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. Only one vessel is from a known and recorded site: Bentsen-Clark (41RR41, see Banks and Winters 1975).

Documented Ceramic Vessels

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: None; believed to be from an as yet unknown Bowie County, Texas site
VESSEL NO.: TX-70
VESSEL FORM: Jar
NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog
RIM AND LIP FORM: Everted rim and rounded lip
CORE COLOR: G (fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air)
INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark grayish-brown
EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark yellowish-brown; fire clouds on the rim, body, and base
WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 7.0 mm
INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed
EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: none
HEIGHT (IN CM): 23.2
ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 14.6
DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 13.2
BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 9.5 cm, circular and flat
ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 3.0
DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The rim has three horizontal neck banded rows (Figure 1). The vessel body has four vertical appliqued ridges and four appliqued ridge chevron elements.

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Nash Neck Banded, grog variety (see Perttula 2015; Suhm and Jelks 1962:111 and Plate 56)

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: None.
The vessel came from a burial excavated by Graham Carr of Idabel, Oklahoma. The site is described as being on the Red River, opposite old Shawneetown.

VESSEL NO.: TX-23/1 [tag], labeled TX 41/1

VESSEL FORM: Globular jar with opposed suspension holes (3.1 mm in diameter) on the rim

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: shell

RIM AND LIP FORM: Everted rim and rounded lip

CORE COLOR: B (fired and cooled in a reducing environment)

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark grayish-brown; fire clouds on the rim, body, and base

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark grayish-brown; fire clouds on the rim and body

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 5.2 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished on the rim and smoothed on the body

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT (IN CM): 12.0

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 10.4

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 9.5

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 7.5 cm, circular and convex

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.7
DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The rim of the vessel is plain, but the vessel body has broad hooked arm engraved line elements forming upper and lower zones filled with cross-hatched engraved lines (Figure 2). The upper and lower engraved zones have open triangle elements that separate the hooked arm zones.

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: white and red clay pigments in the engraved lines; the top band of cross-hatching has a red pigment, while the lower band of cross-hatched lines has a white pigment

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Hudson Engraved (Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 41)

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: Bentsen-Clark (41RR41)

VESSEL NO.: TX 67/3

VESSEL FORM: Bottle

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: N/A

CORE COLOR: G (fired in a reducing environment and cooled in the open air)

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: very dark gray

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: red

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 6.5 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: none

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT (IN CM): 12.1+

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): N/A

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): N/A

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: N/A

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): N/A

Figure 2. Hudson Engraved jar (TX 23/1) from an unknown Red River County, Texas site.
DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND
ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The exterior
vessel surface has a red ochre-rich clay slip
(Figure 3).

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL:
none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Sanders
Slipped (see Perttula et al. 2016)

Summary

During the course of documenting ancestral
Caddo ceramic vessels and other artifacts in the
George T. Wright collection from East Texas sites
held by the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of
Natural History at the University of Oklahoma
(Perttula et al. 2017), we had the opportunity to
document three vessels from different sites in Red River and Bowie counties, Texas. Only one of these
vessels is from a recorded site, namely the Bentsen-Clark site (41RR41).

The vessel from the Bentsen-Clark site is a red-slipped Sanders Slipped bottle likely dating to the
Middle Caddo period, from ca. A.D. 1200-1400. Banks and Winters (1975:75) note that red-slipped
vessels are relatively common at the site, either with engraved lines (Holly Fine Engraved and Spiro
Engraved) or as undecorated “Sanders Plain” bottles; Perttula et al. (2016) have re-classified red-slipped
Sanders Plain vessels as Sanders Slipped.

The other two vessels are Late Caddo period in age, dating from ca. A.D. 1400-1680. The grog-
tempered variety of Nash Neck Banded is associated with Texarkana phase sites in Bowie and Cass
counties, Texas, while the shell-tempered Hudson Engraved jar is from a late McCurtain phase (ca. A.D.
1550-1680) burial feature in a mid-Red River basin site.

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