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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, Mark Walters, and Bo Nelson*

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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 applied ridges and four applied 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



Figure 1. Nash Neck Banded jar, TX-70.

**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)

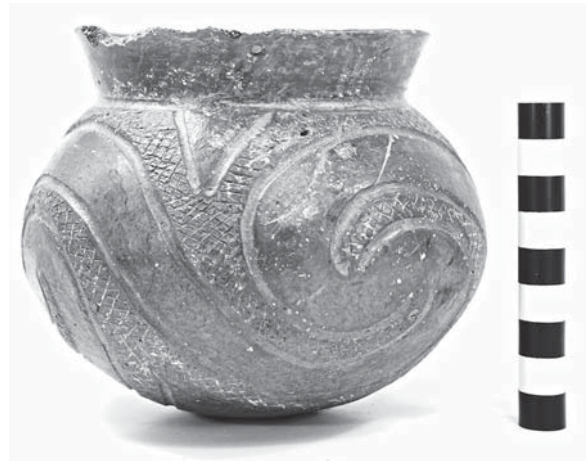


Figure 2. Hudson Engraved jar (TX 23/1) from an unknown Red River County, Texas site.

**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

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.

### Acknowledgments

We thank Dr. Marc Levine and Dr. Susie Fishman-Armstrong of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History for facilitating access to these vessels from East Texas archeological sites, and providing work space during our documentation efforts. We are equally grateful for the support provided by the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma for this documentation effort, and we very much appreciate the visit from Phil Cross (Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and NAGPRA Director) of the Caddo Nation during our work.

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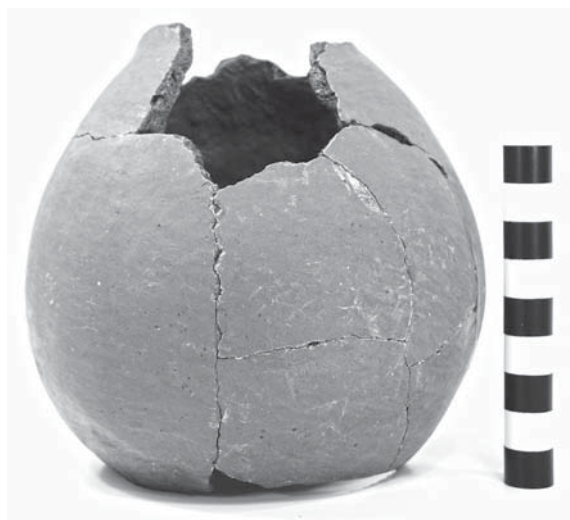


Figure 3. Sanders Slipped bottle (TX 67/3) from the Bentsen-Clark site (41RR41).

Perttula, T. K., M. Walters, and B. Nelson

2016 *Caddo Ceramic Vessels from the T. M. Sanders Site (41LR2) on the Red River in Lamar County, Texas*. Special Publication No. 41. Friends of Northeast Texas Archaeology, Austin and Pittsburg.

2017 *Documentation of Ancestral Caddo Ceramic Vessels and Other Artifacts from East Texas Sites in the George T. Wright Collection at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History*. Special Publication No. 49. Friends of Northeast Texas Archaeology, Pittsburg and Austin.

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