AMERICAN INDIAN POTTERY FROM HISTORIC PERIOD SITES
IN NORTH LOUISIANA

H. F. "Pete" Gregory and George Avery

The following is a revised version of a presentation given at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) held in Monroe, Louisiana, on March 4, 2006 (Gregory and Avery 2006). The goal of the LAS presentation was to simply show photographs and illustrations of American Indian pottery that dates to the historic period in North Louisiana. Most of the photographs and illustrations are from a manuscript written by H.F. "Pete" Gregory entitled Los Adaes (16NA16) American Indian Ceramics (2005). This manuscript was compiled by George Avery as part of the Los Adaes Station Archaeology Program, funded entirely by the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. The LAS presentation was given again at the December 2, 2006 meeting of the East Texas Caddo Research Group (ETCRG) at Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas. Revisions to the LAS presentation for the current publication were made as a result of comments from the ETCRG meeting.

It should be noted that we are following R. K. Harris’ definition for “Emory Punctated” (Story et al. 1967:136-139). Emory Punctated as defined by Harris at the Gilbert Site (41RA13) refers to constricted neck vessels with two or more rows of punctates around the neck, and parallel curvilinear lines below the rows of punctates. We describe the sherds with one or more rows of punctations around the neck of a constricted neck vessel that lack incised lines below the row(s) of punctates as simply “Constricted Neck Punctated”. As defined by Harris, certain elements of Emory Punctated are similar to those found on Foster Trailed Incised and Winterville Incised, var. Tunica vessels (see Girard 2006:28-29). Also, the constricted neck punctated forms are similar to the Tunica Mode described by Jeffrey Brain which occurs on Winterville Incised, var. Tunica (Brain 1979:234-235). Brain (1979:229) also illustrates an otherwise plain vessel with a Tunica mode from the Trudeau site (16WF25). The current interpretation of Emory Punctated for Texas materials (e.g. Perttula 2005:186) differs from the interpretation of Emory Punctated for Los Adaes materials (Gregory 2005). The Emory Punctated at Los Adaes was graciously referred to as “Louisiana Emory” at the ETCRG by a Texas colleague. Clearly, a more thorough investigation and discussion of the “overlap” between Emory Punctated, Foster Trailed Incised, Winterville Incised, and the Tunica Mode is in order, and hopefully the following presentation will spark such investigation and discussion.

The following presentation starts with a distribution table for various historic period pottery types along with their geographic distribution, and the names of the American Indian groups that were in these areas during the historic period. The pottery is presented starting with examples of engraved surface treatment, followed by incised, punctated, punctated-incised, combed, plain, and plain with European influences. It should be noted that many of the “plain” examples exhibit a single incised line or raised area around the neck, which effectively separates the rim and body. Frank Schambach described the upper/lower delineation for decorated Caddo pottery as the “Rule of Two.”
The "Rule of Two" also seems to be present on wares that have no other surface design elements except for the upper/lower delineation in the form of an incised line or raised area. Such vessels are described here as "Rule of Two" Plain, which are present at Los Adaes, the Trudeau site (16WF25) (Brain 1979:229-231), and the Procello site (16DS212) (Espey, Huston & Associates 1983: Figure 26a). Finally, plain wares with European influences are depicted, such as the pitcher, plate, and porringer forms, and the foot ring attribute.

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References Cited

Brain, Jeffrey P.  

Espey, Huston, & Associates  

Girard, Jeffrey S.  


Table 1. Distribution of Historic Period American Indian Pottery in North Louisiana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pottery Type/Description</th>
<th>Natchitoches/NW Tribal Groups</th>
<th>Ouachita Area Tribal Groups</th>
<th>Lower Red River Tribal Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natchitoches, Adaes</td>
<td>Ouachita Koroa</td>
<td>Avoyel Tunica-Biloxi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yatasi, Natchez</td>
<td>Chocaw (later)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Choctaw, Apalachee</td>
<td>Pascagoula (later)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coushatta</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keno Trailed</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X (rare)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natchitoches, Engraved</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patton Engraved</td>
<td>X (rare)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emory Punctated</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebarb Incised</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatherland Incised</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickachae Combed</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coushatta &quot;Pie Edge&quot; rims</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimmerman Plain</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constricted Neck Punctated</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Rule of Two&quot; Plain</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain with European Influences</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Natchitoches Engraved

Gary Hardamon

Fish Hatchery 16NA9
Natchitoches Engraved

Williamson Museum
(Webb 1945)

Gary Hardamon

Lawton Gin 16NA13
Natchitoches Engraved

Williamson Museum

Lawton Gin
16NA13

Gary Hardamon
Natchitoches Engraved

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

31.8 cm

18.0 cm

8.3 cm

Shelly Witten

shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16
Natchitoches Engraved

Red slipped shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16

(Gregory 2005 ms.)
Natchitoches Engraved

Red slipped

shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16
Natchitoches Engraved

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Red slipped

shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16
Patton Engraved

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Los Adaes 16NA16
Ebarb Incised

shell and bone tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16
Constricted Neck Punctated

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Shelly Witten

shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16
Constricted Neck Punctated

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Shelly Witten

15.6 cm

18.0 cm

Los Adaes 16NA16
Constricted Neck Punctated

Shelly Witten

shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16

(Gregory 2005 ms.)
Constricted Neck Punctated

Shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16

Shelly Witten

(Gregory 2005 ms.)
Constricted Neck Punctated

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Shelly Witten

16.8 cm

Shelly Witten

13.8 cm

Los Adaes 16NA16
Constricted Neck Punctated

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Shelly Witten

10.5 cm

Shelly Witten

8.5 cm

Los Adaes 16NA16
Emory Punctated

Shelly Witten

18.7 cm

Shelly Witten

Los Adaes 16NA16
Emory Punctated

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Shelly Witten

Shelly Witten

Shelly Witten

Shelly Witten

indeterminate

Los Adaes 16NA16
Emory Punctated

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Shelly Witten

Los Adaes 16NA16
Fatherland Incised

Williamson Museum

Gary Hardamon

Etheridge, Caldwell Parish
Fatherland Incised

Shelly Witten

Los Adaes 16NA16
Chickachae Combed

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Los Adaes 16NA16
"Rule of Two" Plain Wares

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16
"Rule of Two" Plain Wares

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16
"Rule of Two" Plain Wares

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Josh Martin

shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16
"Rule of Two" Plain Wares

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Josh Martin

shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16
"Rule of Two" Plain Wares

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

Shelly Witten

shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16
"Rule of Two" Plain Wares

(Gregory 2005 ms.)

shell tempered

Los Adaes 16NA16
Los Adaes 16NA16
shell tempered

"Rule of Two" Plain Wares

Shelly Witten
Plain Wares with European Influences

(pitcher form)

Payne Plantation, Natchitoches Parish

Gary Hardamon
Plain Wares with European Influences

(pitcher form) Los Adaes 16NA16

(Gregory 2005 ms.)
Plain Wares with European Influences

(brimmed bowl form) Los Adaes 16NA16
Plains Wares with European Influences

Los Adaes 16NA16

(brimmed bowl form)
Plain Wares with European Influences

(basal sherd with foot ring)

Los Adaes 16NA16
Plain Wares with European Influences

(porringer form)

Gary Hardamon

Colfax Ferry 16NA15