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CLAY PIPES FROM THE TUCK CARPENTER SITE (41CP5) CAMP COUNTY, TEXAS

Jesse Todd and Robert L. Turner

Abstract

In this paper, four clay elbow pipes are described from the Tuck Carpenter site (41CP5) in Camp County, Texas, and compared to clay pipes from other areas.

Introduction

The Tuck Carpenter site (41CP5) is located approximately 3.19 miles east of downtown Pittsburg and overlooks Dry Creek in Camp County, Texas. The site consists of at least 45 Caddo interments that date to the Titus phase. The site yielded a calibrated 2 sigma radiocarbon age of A.D. 1473-1635 (Perttula 2005:Table 11-2). Based upon the presence of a stemmed, Caddo-produced ceramic chalice or goblet from Grave 33, Turner postulated that the cemetery's terminal date may be a few years past the de Soto expedition, which was lead by Moscoso into Texas in 1542. Turner (1978) was able to divide the burials into two components, Early and Late. Perttula (1992:112), however, was able to determine that three subphases were present.

During the excavation of the burials, seven clay elbow pipes were recovered (Turner 1978:73), four of which are in Mr. Robert Turner's possession. The pipes are from Graves 15, 23, 25, and 26. In this paper, the pipes are described and compared to pipes from other sites in northeastern Texas as well as other states.

Discussion

The measurements for the pipes are presented in Table 1. The location where the measurements of the pipes were taken is presented in Figure 1. The pipes are shown in Figures 2 and 3.

Table 1. Clay elbow pipe measurements (in mm).

Grave	a	b	c	d	e
15	36	36	32	25	15.5
23	50	37.5	31.5	26	16
25	50	34	28.5	23.5	17.5
26	44	39	31	30	18

Chronology

Perttula (1992:248-249) compared the presence of arrow point and pottery types from Titus phase cemeteries in the Cypress Creek Basin. Based upon the co-association of specific arrow/pottery types, he was able to divide the Titus phase in the Cypress Creek Basin into three temporal periods with several subphases. At the Tuck Carpenter site, Period 2 consists of subphases a and b, which range in age from ca. A.D. 1450 to 1600. Bassett and Maud arrow points are the major arrow types, while a variety of pottery types such as Wilder Engraved and Ripley Engraved are present at that time. Period 3, subphase c at the site belongs to the "Classic" Titus phase and probably dates after ca. A.D. 1600. Talco and Maud arrow points characterize this period, especially the Talco type.

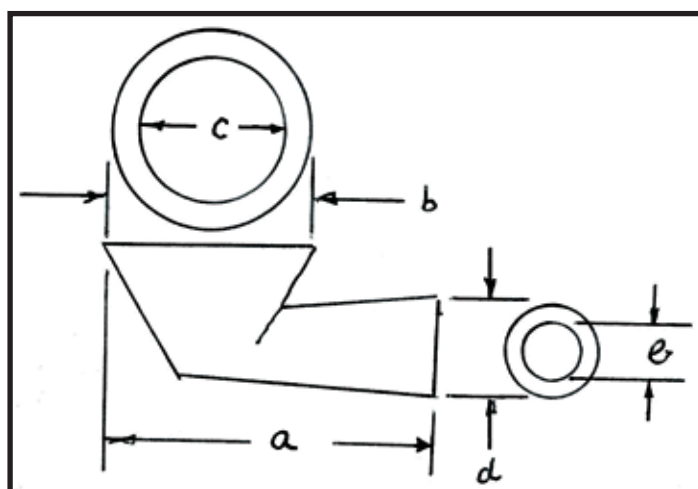


Figure 1. Location of pipe measurements.

Table 2. Arrow and pottery types and periods and subphases associated with pipes (Turner 1992; Perttula 1992:112).

Grave	Arrow and Pottery Types	Period/subphase
15	4 Ripley Engraved bowls, 1 Maydelle Incised vessel, 3 Perdiz arrow points	2, a
23	3 Ripley Engraved carinated bowls, 2 Ripley Engraved compound bowls, 1 La Rue Neck Banded vessel, 1 Avery Engraved Red bottle, 2 Ripley Engraved jars, a square Ripley Engraved vessel, 7 Maud arrow points, 8 Perdiz arrow points, 7 Basset arrow points	2, b
25	3 Ripley Engraved carinated bowls, 2 Ripley Engraved Compound bowls, Wilder Engraved bottle, 2 Talco arrow points, 1 Perdiz arrow point	3, c
26	2 Ripley Engraved carinated bowls, 2 Bullard Brushed vessels, 1 Avery Engraved vessel	Unknown

Comparisons with Other Sites

Biconical and keeled pipes are found throughout the Caddo area in Arkansas (Moore 1909; Wood 1981), Louisiana (Moore 1909; Jones 1984) and Oklahoma (Wyckoff 1979; Finkelstein 2000). In Texas, Jackson (1933) provides an overview of pipes from East Texas but there are numerous other sites containing both styles of pipes. Keeled elbow pipes retain some of the characteristics of the Red River pipes (Hofman 1967:10). The projecting stem edge of the Red River pipe was turned up to join the distal end of the bowl, and in some cases, the keel was highly conventionalized.

More specifically, the biconical pipe shown in Figure 2B is similar to an elbow pipe recovered from the Roitsch site (41RR16) in Burial 30 in Red River County, Texas (Perttula 2008:373). The pipe also is similar to one found at the Keno Place site in Louisiana (Moore 1909:128). The slightly angular pipe illustrated in Figure 2A closely resembles a pipe found in Burial 4 at the Horton site (41CP20) in Camp County, Texas (Hunt et al. 1996:F-11).

Although a specific keeled elbow pipe comparable to the one from Grave 25 (Figure 3B) was not found in the literature, a pipe similar to the one in Figure 3A is illustrated from Bowie County, Texas by Biggs and Malone (1970:Figure 65).

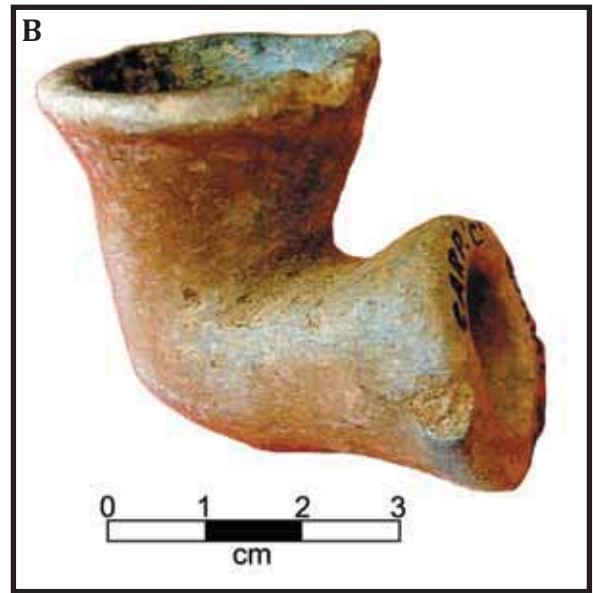
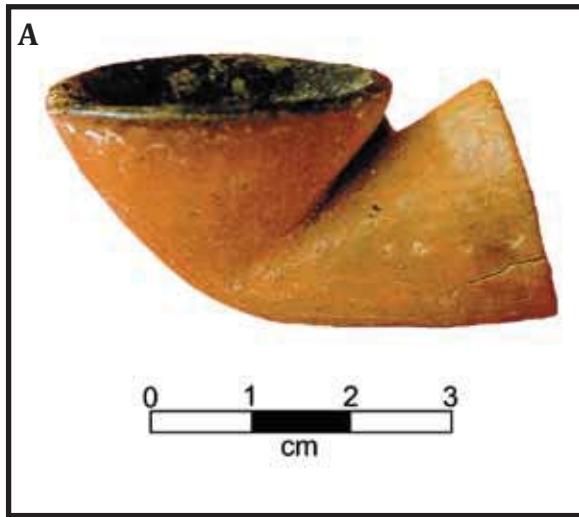


Figure 2. A) Slightly angular elbow pipe from Grave 15. B) Biconical pipe from Grave 26.



Figure 3. A) Keeled elbow pipes from Grave 23. B) from Grave 25 at site 41CP5.

Conclusions

Pipes found at the Tuck Carpenter site (41CP5) probably range in age from ca. A.D. 1450 to the post-1600s. With such a time span, pipes could have been traded from or copies made from any of the above discussed sites.

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