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Ancestral Caddo Ceramic Vessels from Sites in Harrison and Titus Counties, Texas

Timothy K. Perttula

Introduction

This article puts on record the documentation of 17 ancestral Caddo ceramic vessels from five sites in Harrison and Titus counties in East Texas in the collections of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin (TARL) (Figure 1). This documentation is part of the overall and larger effort to develop an ancestral Caddo ceramic vessel database (McKinnon 2019) as well as build online ceramic vessel galleries on the Index of Texas Archeology website by Dr. Robert Z. Selden, Jr. (Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas).

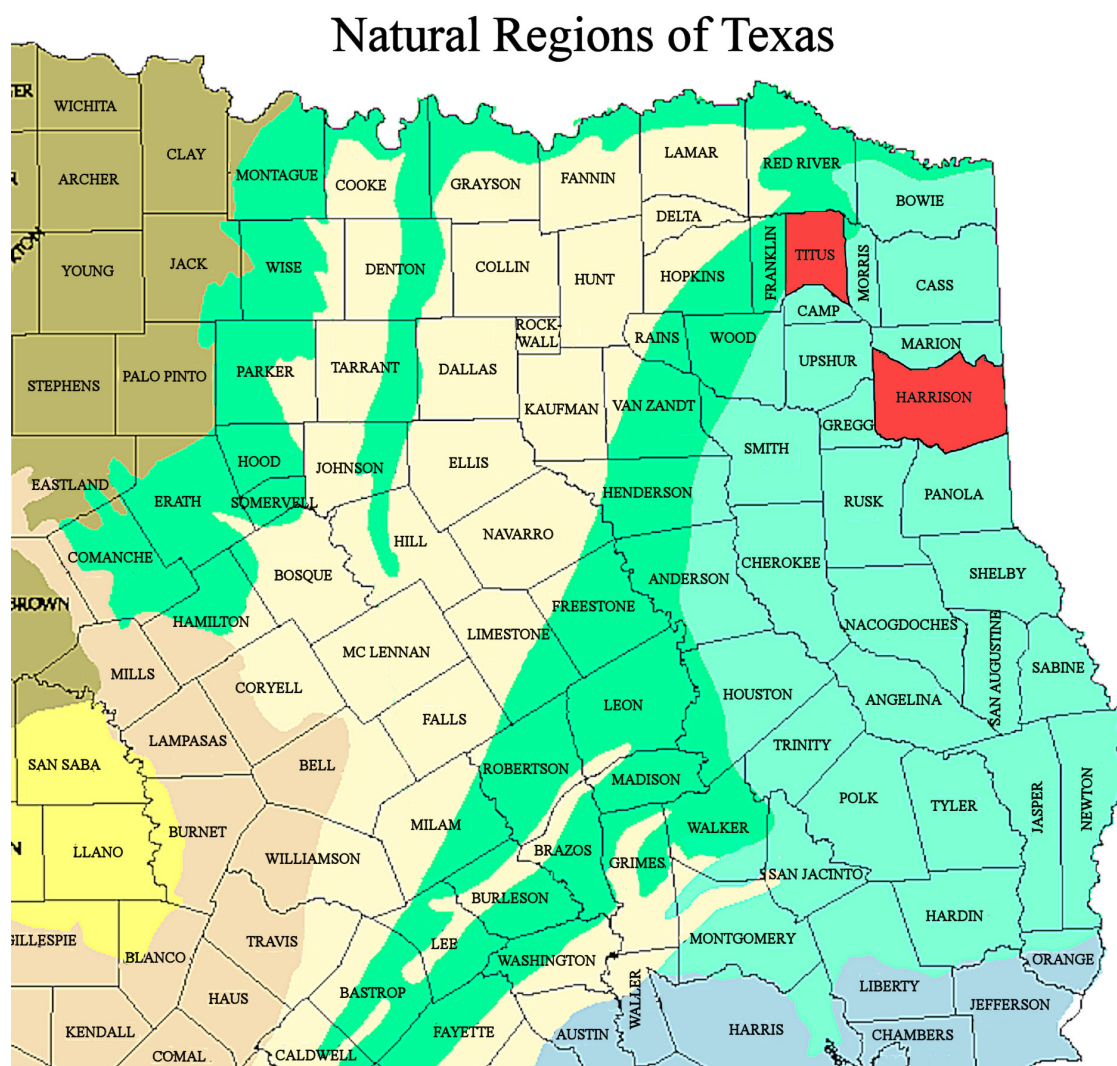


Figure 1. Harrison and Titus Counties in East Texas.

Vessel Documentation

In this ancestral Caddo ceramic vessel documentation effort, the following consistent set of attributes were employed in the study and analysis:

Non-plastics: Deliberate and indeterminate materials in the paste (Rice 1987:411), including a variety of tempers (i.e., grog or crushed sherds, bone, hematite, and shell, as well as combinations of different temper inclusions) and “particulate matter of some size.” The grog, bone, hematite, or shell appears to have been deliberately added to the paste as tempers. The bone or shell used for temper had been burned and calcined, then crushed, before it was added to the paste.

Vessel Form: Vessel form categories include open containers (bowls of several sizes, including effigy bowls, carinated bowls, and compound bowls) and restricted containers, including jars and bottles, as well as plates. As restricted containers, jars allow access by hand, but bottles do not (Brown 1996:335). Other form attributes that were recorded include the rim profile (outflaring or everted, vertical or standing, and inverted), lip profile (rolled to the exterior, rounded, flat, or thinned), and base shape (flat or rounded).

Core Colors: Observations on ceramic cross-section colors permit consideration of oxidation patterns (Teltser 1993:Figure 2A-H; Perttula 2005:Figure 5-30), and thus the conditions under which the vessel was fired and then cooled after firing. Comments are included for these attributes on the presence and location of fire-clouding, sooting or smudging from cooking use (Skibo 1992), and the preservation of any charred organic remains.

Wall Thickness: Thickness was recorded in millimeters, using a vernier caliper, at the lip, along the rim, at several points along the body when possible, and at the base when possible (only for the vessels that were not complete).

Interior and Exterior Surface Treatment: The primary methods of finishing the surface of the vessels includes either smoothing, burnishing, and rarely polishing (Rice 1987:138). Brushing, while a popular method of roughening the surface (particularly the body) of large and small Middle (ca. A.D. 1200-1450) and Late Caddo (ca. A.D. 1450-1680) period cooking jars in several parts of the Caddo area (Perttula 2017), is here considered a decorative treatment rather than solely a functional surface treatment (cf. Rice 1987:138), although not all Caddo ceramic analysts treat brushing as a decorative treatment. Smoothing creates “a finer and more regular surface...[and] has a matte rather than a lustrous finish” (Rice 1987:138). Burnishing, on the other hand, creates an irregular lustrous finish marked by parallel facets left by the burnishing tool (perhaps a pebble or bone). A polished surface treatment is marked by a uniform and highly lustrous surface finish, done when the vessel is dry, but without “the pronounced parallel facets produced by burnishing leather-hard clay” (Rice 1987:138).

The application of a hematite-rich clay slip (Ferring and Perttula 1987), either red or black after firing in an oxidizing or reducing (i.e., low-oxygen) environment, respectively, is another form of surface treatment noted in many East Texas assemblage. On these vessels, the clay slip is more frequently applied on the vessel exterior, or on both surfaces, than on the interior surface, and then was burnished after it was leather-hard or dry.

Height and Orifice Diameter: These attributes, measured in centimeters, were recorded with a ruler.

Diameter at Bottom of Rim and Base Diameter: Also recorded in millimeters using a ruler, these attributes permit characterization of the overall contour and shape of the vessel.

Volume: With measurements of height and orifice diameter obtained from the vessels, as well as other measurements of size (i.e., base diameter and maximum body width), volumes were estimated by comparison with known vessel volumes of specific forms (i.e., carinated bowl, jar, bottle, compound bowl, and bowl) in many other recently documented Caddo vessel assemblages.

Base Diameter and Shape: these attributes were either measured in centimeters or by shape attributes: circular or square, and flat, rounded (convex), or concave.

Decoration: Decorative techniques present in the vessel collection include engraving, incising, trailing, punctating, pinching, brushing, and appliquéing, and on certain vessels, combinations of decorative techniques (i.e., incised-punctated) created the decorative elements and motifs. Engraving was done with a sharp tool when the vessel was either leather-hard, or after it was fired, as were the tick marks often seen on vessels in this collection, while the other decorative techniques were executed with tools (trailing, incising, and punctation), by adding strips of clay to the wet body (appliqué), using frayed sticks or grass stems (brushing) dragged across the body surface, or fingernails (certain forms of punctations and pinching), when the vessel was wet or still plastic. Excising is considered a form of engraved decoration, where the clay is deliberately and closely marked/scraped and carved away with a sharp tool, usually to create triangular elements, tick marks, or excised punctations.

Use of Pigments: Another form of vessel decoration is the use of red (hematite or ochre) or white (kaolin clay) clay pigments that have been smeared or rubbed into the engraved lines of certain vessels.

Type: The kinds of ceramic types and defined varieties in the TARL collections follow Suhm and Jelks (1962), Perttula (2005), and Fields (2019).

Roden Site (4IHS14)

The Roden site is on a sandy knoll in the Potters Creek floodplain; Potters Creek is a southward-flowing tributary of the Sabine River (see Webb et al. 1969:Figure 1-7). Local collectors in 1962 excavated ancestral Caddo burial features there, and three vessels from one burial (Burial 1) excavated by Kelley Arnould were donated to The University of Texas in 1962. Arnould noted that 15 Bassett arrow points also came from Burial 1, indicating the ancestral Caddo burial dated after ca. A.D. 1500 and was of Titus phase affiliation. Arnould also retained a Wilder Engraved, *var. Wilder* bottle from Burial 1.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: Roden site

VESSEL NO.: 1, Burial 1

VESSEL FORM: Jar

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: bone

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and rounded lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the rim and body

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the rim, body, and base; organic residue on the rim and body

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 8.1 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: none

HEIGHT (IN CM): 18.7

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 13.6

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 13.4

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 7.0 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 2.3

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The vessel rim and body has vertical brushed-incised marks and lines that extend to within 1.8 cm of the vessel base (Figure 2).

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Karnack Brushed-Incised



Figure 2. Karnack Brushed-Incised jar (No. 1) in Burial 1 at the Roden site.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: Roden

VESSEL NO.: 2, Burial 1

VESSEL FORM: Carinated bowl

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog and bone

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and rounded, exterior folded, lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the base

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the rim, body, and base

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 5.5 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT (IN CM): 9.4

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 21.5

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 21.2

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 6.8 cm, circular and rounded

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 1.2

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The rim panel has three upper and three lower concentric circle elements within either concentric semi-circles or triangular elements (Figure 3).

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL:
none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Ripley Engraved, *var. unspecified*



Figure 3. Ripley Engraved, *var. unspecified* carinated bowl (No. 2) in Burial 1 at the Roden site.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: Roden site

VESSEL NO.: 3, Burial 1

VESSEL FORM: Carinated bowl

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog and bone

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and rounded lip

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

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

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the body and base

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 6.4 mm; body, 7.3 mm; base, 10.5 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT (IN CM): 6.5

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 13.2

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 13.0

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 6.4 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.5

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The rim panel has single upper and lower horizontal engraved lines as well as three alternating sets of concentric circles and concentric semi-circles (Figure 4).

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Ripley Engraved, *var. unspecified*



Figure 4. Ripley Engraved, *var. unspecified* carinated bowl (No. 3) in Burial 1 at the Roden site.

Peterson Ranch Site (41HS253)

The Peterson Ranch site (41HS253) is a late 17th to early 18th century Caddo cemetery in the Little Cypress Creek basin in the East Texas Pineywoods (Perttula 2015). The cemetery, on a natural knoll on the west side of Gray's Creek, a northern-flowing tributary of Little Cypress Creek, was found and excavated in 1962 by a number of collectors from the Marshall, Texas, area. In 1963 the cemetery area was destroyed by the construction of an oil well pad (Speir n.d.).

At least 14 ancestral Caddo burial features were excavated at the cemetery, and a wide range of funerary offerings were included with the deceased individuals, including at least 91 ceramic vessels (Pertulla 2015:Table 1). The one ceramic vessel from the site in the TARL collections was donated by Forrest Murphey, a well-known local collector, but it is not known what burial it was found with.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: Peterson Ranch

VESSEL NO.: D-70, Forrest Murphey Collection

VESSEL FORM: Jar

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Everted rim and rounded lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the body and base

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the rim, body, and base; organic residue on the rim and body

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 8.7 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: none

HEIGHT (IN CM): 30.2

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 27.2

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 26.4

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 8.9 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 10.7

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The vessel rim has vertical brushed-incised marks and lines, and the vessel body has vertical and diagonal opposed brushed-incised marks and lines that extend to within 1.5 cm of the vessel base (Figure 5)

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Unidentified utility ware



Figure 5. Brushed-incised jar (D-70) from the Peterson Ranch site.

C. T. Coley Site (41TT17)

The ancestral Caddo ceramic vessels from the C. T. Coley site were purchased from the landowner by University of Texas archaeologists (UT) in May 1931. The landowner had plowed up the vessels earlier that year (Thurmond 1990:79) or in 1930 (UT site files) from a sandy knoll overlooking the Hart Creek floodplain in the Big Cypress Creek basin. UT archaeologists returned to the site in 1934 in an attempt to identify Caddo burial features by excavating trenches in the area where vessels had been previously found (and purchased by UT), but none were identified (Goldschmidt 1934). These excavations did recover a single engraved marine shell pendant identical to others from Late Caddo to Early Historic Caddo contexts along the Red River and in East Texas (Pertulla et al. 2010:36-38 and Figures 34-35).

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: C. T. Coley

VESSEL NO.: 2

VESSEL FORM: Jar (body and base only)

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: N/A

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the body

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: very dark gray; fire clouds on the body

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): body, 7.1 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: none

HEIGHT (IN CM): 9.1+

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 11.7

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

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 7.3 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.6+

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The vessel body has vertical brushing marks divided by 14 vertical applied fillets that extend to within 1.0 cm of the vessel base (Figure 6).

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Pease Brushed-Incised



Figure 6. Pease Brushed-Incised jar (No. 2) from the C. T. Coley site.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: C. T. Coley

VESSEL NO.: 4

VESSEL FORM: Jar

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and rounded lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: yellowish-brown

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

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 4.9 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: none

HEIGHT (IN CM): 12.2

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 13.2

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 13.2

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 7.6 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 1.0

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The vessel rim has at least seven horizontal rows of tool punctations, and the vessel body has vertical incised lines that extend to the vessel base (Figure 7).

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Unidentified utility ware



Figure 7. Incised-punctated jar (No. 4) from the C. T. Coley site.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: C. T. Coley

VESSEL NO.: 7

VESSEL FORM: Jar with four rim peaks (Figure 8)

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Everted rim and rounded, exterior folded, lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark gray

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark yellowish-brown; fire clouds on the body and base

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 6.3 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed on the body

HEIGHT (IN CM): 10.3; height at rim peaks: 10.7 cm

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 9.5

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

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 6.4 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.6

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The vessel rim has two horizontal neck banded rows (Figure 8).

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): La Rue Neck Banded



Figure 8. La Rue Neck Banded jar (No. 7) from the C. T. Coley site.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: C. T. Coley

VESSEL NO.: 9

VESSEL FORM: Jar with a pie-crust or sprocket lip (see Walters 2010)

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and a flat, exterior folded, lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark gray

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark reddish-brown; fire clouds on the rim, body, and base; organic residue on the rim and body

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 7.4 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT (IN CM): 6.8

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 9.8

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 9.4

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 7.6 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.4

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The rim of the vessel has five horizontal engraved lines, while the body has sets of semi-circles and hooked arm elements (Figure 9). Within each of the three semi-circle elements are smaller semi-circles with embedded curvilinear and hooked arm elements. The semi-circles are divided from the five hooked arm elements by curvilinear hatched bracket elements.

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Unidentified fine ware



Figure 9. Engraved jar (No. 9) from the C. T. Coley site.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: C. T. Coley

VESSEL NO.: 10

VESSEL FORM: Carinated bowl (Figure 10a)

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and rounded, exterior folded, lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark gray

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark reddish-brown

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 6.5 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT (IN CM): 5.1

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 13.0

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 12.6

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 5.4 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.4

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The rim panel has alternating sets of two horizontal-vertical scroll lines and hatched brackets and closely-spaced concentric semi-circles (Figure 10b). The upper and lower scroll fill zones have a series of very closely-spaced horizontal engraved lines.

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL:

none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN):

Ripley Engraved, *var. unspecified*

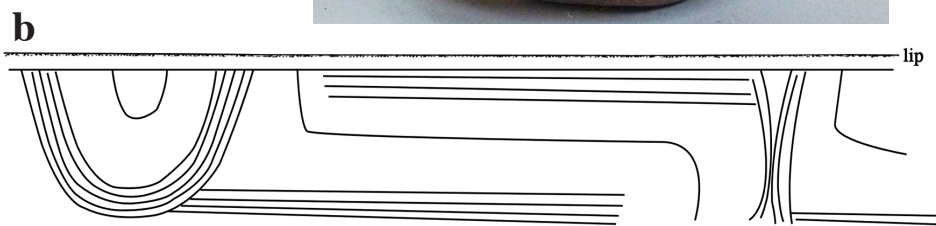


Figure 10. Ripley Engraved, *var. unspecified* carinated bowl (No. 10) from the C. T. Coley site: a, side view; b, decorative elements.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: C. T. Coley

VESSEL NO.: 11

VESSEL FORM: Carinated bowl

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and rounded, exterior folded, lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark gray

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: very dark gray

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 4.6 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT (IN CM): 3.0

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 9.2

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 8.8

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 4.3 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.2

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The rim panel has four alternating sets of concentric circles and upper and lower nested triangle elements (Figure 11). There are single upper and lower large excised pendant triangles between the concentric circles and the adjacent nested triangles.

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL:
none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Ripley Engraved, *var. Cash*



Figure 11. Ripley Engraved, *var. Cash* carinated bowl (No. 11) from the C. T. Coley site.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: C. T. Coley

VESSEL NO.: 12

VESSEL FORM: Compound bowl

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Everted rim and rounded lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: yellowish-brown; fire clouds on the base

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: yellowish-brown; fire clouds on the body and base

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, upper panel, 4.0 mm; rim, lower panel, 4.7 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

HEIGHT (IN CM): 3.4

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 8.8

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 8.6 cm, upper rim panel; 8.4 cm, lower rim panel

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 4.3 cm, circular and rounded

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.2

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The upper rim panel has three horizontal engraved lines, while the lower rim panel is divided into four sections by vertical excised columns (Figure 12). Between the columns are single short horizontal dashed lines.

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL:
none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Unidentified fine ware, cf. Belcher Engraved (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:9)



Figure 12. Engraved compound bowl (No. 12) from the C. T. Coley site.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: C. T. Coley

VESSEL NO.: 13

VESSEL FORM: Bottle (missing the upper part of the body and the neck) (Figure 13a)

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: N/A

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: yellowish-brown

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: yellowish-brown; fire clouds on the base

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 6.9 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: none

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

HEIGHT (IN CM): 3.6+

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): N/A

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): N/A; maximum body diameter: 9.6 cm

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 5.9 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.1+

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The vessel body is divided into two horizontal panels filled with either horizontal hatched triangle elements or diagonal and vertical hatched triangle elements and five sets of concentric circles (Figure 13b).

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Unidentified fine ware

a



b

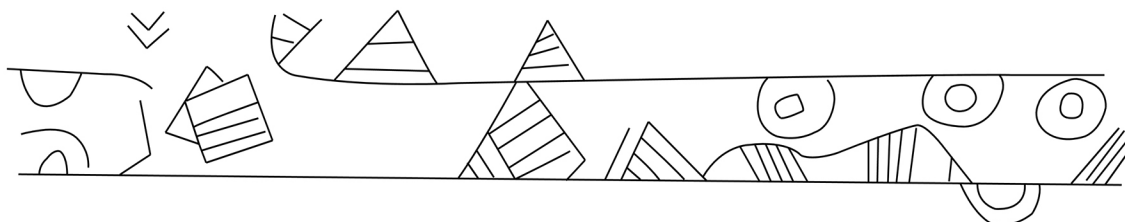


Figure 13. Engraved bottle (No. 13) from the C. T. Coley site: a, photo; b, decorative elements.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: C. T. Coley

VESSEL NO.: 14

VESSEL FORM: Bowl

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and rounded lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: dark gray

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: brown; fire clouds on the rim, body, and base

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 6.2 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT (IN CM): 5.5

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 8.1

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

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 4.3 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.2

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): Plain (Figure 14)

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Unidentified plain ware



Figure 14. Plain bowl (No. 14) from the C. T. Coley site.

O. P. Hall (41TT54)

The one vessel from the O. P. Hall site at TARL was purchased by UT from the landowner in May 1931; the landowner had plowed it up (Thurmond 1990:83). Thurmond (1990:83) erroneously reported that the vessel was lost. The site is 3 miles east of Winfield, Texas, on the south side of Dragoo Creek, a tributary stream in the Big Cypress Creek basin.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: O. P. Hall

VESSEL NO.: 1

VESSEL FORM: Carinated bowl

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog and hematite

RIM AND LIP FORM: Inverted rim and rounded lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the rim and body

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the rim, body, and base; organic residue on the rim and body

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 6.5 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT (IN CM): 9.9

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 14.0

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 15.4

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 8.6 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.8

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The rim panel has five upper and five lower alternate engraved nested triangle elements (Figure 15). The corners of each triangle have either diagonal or horizontal hatched lines.

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: red pigment in the engraved lines

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Ripley Engraved, *var. Williams*



Figure 15. Ripley Engraved, *var. Williams* carinated bowl (No. 14) from the O. P. Hall site.

Benson's Crossing (41TT110)

The Benson's Crossing site is located on an alluvial terrace on the north side of Big Cypress Creek at Lake Bob Sandlin (Thurmond 1990:197). UT conducted a field school at the site in the summer of 1978, in the area of an identified midden deposit. A considerable portion of the site had been damaged by looters, and at least two ancestral Caddo burial features had been dug there by collectors (Thurmond 1990:196). Seventeen vessels from these burial features were documented by Thurmond (1990:Table 45), and as an assemblage, they suggest, because of the occurrence of several Hodges Engraved-like carinated bowls, that the Titus phase burials date after ca. A.D. 1600.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: Benson's Crossing

VESSEL NO.: VB 1, Lot 695

VESSEL FORM: Carinated bowl

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and rounded lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: brown; fire clouds on the body; organic residue on the rim

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: brown; fire clouds on the rim and body; organic residue on the rim and body

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 6.6 mm; body, 6.3 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

HEIGHT (IN CM): 7.4

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 24.0

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 24.0

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

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 1.1

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): Plain (Figure 16)

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Unidentified plain ware



Figure 16. Plain carinated bowl rim sherds (VB 1) from the Benson's Crossing site.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: Benson's Crossing

VESSEL NO.: VB 195, Lot 1

VESSEL FORM: Carinated bowl

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Inverted rim and rounded, exterior folded, lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: red

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: red

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 4.8 mm; body, 5.2 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

HEIGHT (IN CM): 6.1

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 12.4

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 12.6

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 7.0 cm, circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.5

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The vessel has a hematite-rich clay slip on both interior and exterior vessel surfaces. The narrow rim panel has a series of upper and lower negative ovals defined by broad excised areas and bracket elements (Figure 17).

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): cf. Hodges Engraved



Figure 17. cf. Hodges Engraved carinated bowl (VN 195) from the Benson's Crossing site.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: Benson's Crossing

VESSEL NO.: VB 196, Lot 930

VESSEL FORM: Compound bowl; vessel may have been refired with evidence of vitrification

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: dark gray; fire clouds on the rim panel

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: reddish-brown; fire clouds on the rim panel

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim panel, 6.7 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT (IN CM): N/A

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 32.0

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 rim sections have sets of large concentric semi-circles, one with rays, attached to rectangular zones filled with cross-hatched engraved lines (Figure 18a-b). Dividing the large concentric semi-circles are upper rectangular to oval-shaped zones defined by closely-spaced lines and cross-hatched lines and lower curvilinear hatched ovals or bracket-shaped elements.

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL:
none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): cf. Avery Engraved



Figure 18. cf. Avery Engraved compound bowl (VB 196) from the Benson's Crossing site: a, rim panel section 1; b, rim panel section 2.

Summary and Conclusions

This article concerns the documentation of 17 ancestral Caddo ceramic vessels or vessel sections from five sites in Harrison and Titus counties in East Texas: Roden (41HS14), Peterson Ranch (41HS253), C. T. Coley (41TT17), O. P. Hall (41TT54), and Benson's Crossing (41TT110). These vessels are in the collections of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin. The sites are in the Big Cypress, Little Cypress, and Sabine River basins, and they are part of various Late Caddo period, Titus phase (ca. A.D. 1430-1680) communities (Fields 2019:Figure 12.7). The vessels likely all come from ancestral Caddo burial features.

The vessels from these sites include both plain ware bowls and carinated bowls, utility ware jars, and fine ware bottles, carinated bowls, compound bowls, and jars. Represented in the utility wares are Karnack Brushed-Incised, La Rue Neck Banded, and Pease Brushed-Incised types, along with brushed-incised and incised-punctated vessels. The fine wares are primarily from Ripley Engraved carinated bowls, including *var. Cash*, *var. Williams*, and *var. unspecified*, as well as vessels whose decorative motifs compare favorably to Avery Engraved, Belcher Engraved, and Hodges Engraved. These latter ceramic types may have originated in Belcher phase Red River communities to the east and northeast of the East Texas Titus phase sites (see Webb 1959; Schambach and Miller 1984).

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