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Ancestral Caddo Ceramic Artifacts in the Jesse Martin Glasco Collection from Upshur County, Texas, at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution

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Timothy K. Perttula

Introduction

Jesse Martin Glasco, or J. M. Glasco, lived in Gilmer in Upshur County, Texas, between the mid-1840s and 1886. During most of those years he served as Upshur County surveyor and deputy surveyor, as well as deputy county clerk, postmaster, and tax assessor, and he also represented Upshur County in the 11th Texas legislature. Between 1859-1861 and 1867-1873, he was a meteorological observer for Upshur County for the Smithsonian Institution, and also collected Native American pottery for the Smithsonian's collections from the Gilmer area (Hawkins and Hicks 2010).

Ancestral Caddo Ceramic Artifacts

The ancestral Caddo ceramic artifacts collected by Glasco and donated to the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (NMNH), were documented in 2005 during a repatriation consultation visit. The artifacts include a Taylor Engraved bottle (Figure 1) and 13 decorated vessel sherds. The bottle and the decorated sherds are from a Late Caddo period Titus phase component at a site that was probably occupied after ca. A.D. 1550.

Among the decorated sherds are three Bailey Engraved bottle sherds with engraved and engraved-punctated decorative elements (Figure 2; see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 3). Another sherd in the collection (Figure 3, lower left) may be from a separate engraved-punctated Bailey Engraved bottle. Other sherds in the collection include utility wares with punctated and incised rim and body sherds (Figure 3, top right and lower right and Figure 4, lower right) and Bullard Brushed body sherds (Figure 4, lower left and center). The horizontal incised rim sherd also has short diagonal incised lines beneath the lip, and is lip notched (Figure 3, top right).

Four of the decorated rim sherds collected by Glasco are from Ripley Engraved vessels. One rim is from a Ripley Engraved, *var. McKinney* vessel with a central circle element and an inner diamond element (see Figure 3, top left), and another is from a Ripley Engraved, *var. Pilgrims* vessel with part of an interlocking horizontal scroll motif. A third rim has an excised bracket element (see Figure 4, top center), and the last Ripley Engraved rim has portions of an open engraved bracket element (see Figure 4, top right).



Figure 1. Taylor Engraved bottle. Catalog #A010102, NMNH.



Figure 2. Bailey Engraved bottle sherds. Catalog #A010102, NMNH.



Figure 3. Other fine ware and utility ware sherds collected by J. M. Glasco. Catalog #A010102, NMNH.



Figure 4. Engraved and utility ware sherds in the Glasco Collection at NMNH. Catalog #A010102.

Summary and Conclusions

A single ceramic bottle and ceramic sherds from at least 10 different vessels from an ancestral Caddo site in the Gilmer area of Upshur County in East Texas were collected by Jesse Martin Glasco sometime in the late 19th century and donated to the Smithsonian Institution. These sherds are from Bailey Engraved, Ripley Engraved, and Taylor Engraved fine ware vessels and Bullard Brushed utility wares; other utility ware vessels have either incised or punctated decorative elements. The types of ceramic artifacts are indicative of a Titus phase occupation, and such occupations are common in the Gilmer area (see Parsons 1998, 2015). The Taylor Engraved bottle and the Ripley Engraved, *var. McKinney* rim sherd further suggest that the Caddo site likely dates after ca. A.D. 1550, during the late Titus phase.

Acknowledgments

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