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Early Caddo Period Ceramic Vessels from the Roger D. Simmons Site (41TT321), Titus County, Texas

Timothy K. Perttula

INTRODUCTION

The Roger D. Simmons site (41TT321) is in the Sulphur River basin in East Texas. A single ancestral Caddo burial was exposed in 1984 during the removal of sand from the site for the construction of a school in Talco, Texas. Associated with the burial were three ceramic vessels—documented herein—as well as a large (ca. 18 cm in length) chipped stone bifacial tool made from non-local chert (identified as Edwards formation chert on the site form), an adze, and a celt.

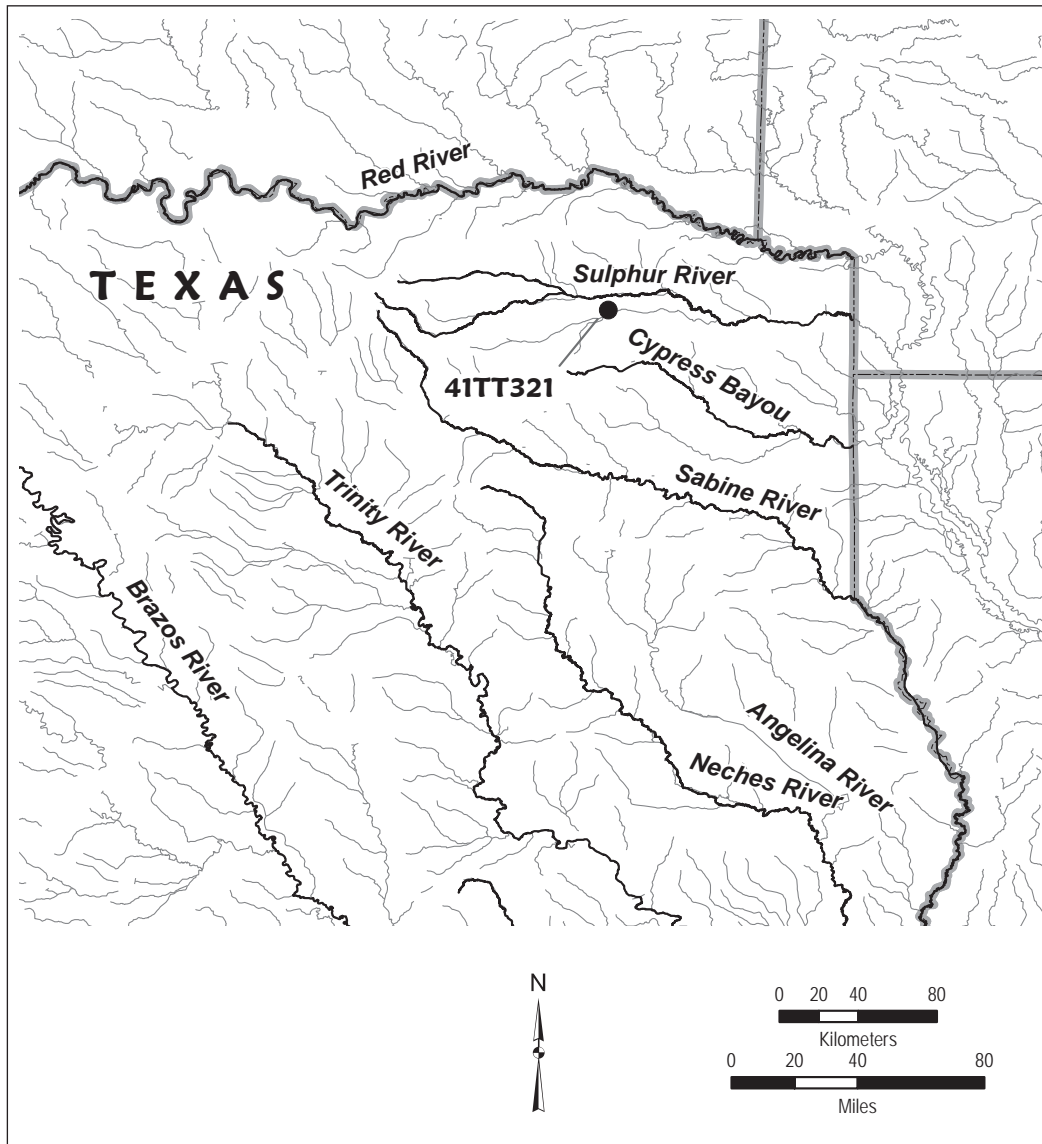


Figure 1. Location of the Roger D. Simmons site (41TT321) in East Texas.

Vessel Documentation

There are three vessels or vessel sections in the collections from the Roger D. Simmons site (41TT321) at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin (TARL). They were donated to TARL in 1984 by Mr. Gary Sykes.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: 41TT321

VESSEL NO.: 1

VESSEL FORM: Bowl (represented by 29 sherds, 12 of which are conjoined)

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog and bone

RIMANDLIPFORM: Direct rim and rounded lip

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

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR:
reddish-brown

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

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM):
rim, 5.0 mm; body, 5.6 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE
TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE
TREATMENT: smoothed

HEIGHT (IN CM): N/A

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 vessel rim has an unknown number of fine-line engraved concentric semi-circles and circles, with triangular-shaped excised areas at the outer corners of the concentric semi-circles (Figure 2).

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

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Holly Fine Engraved (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 40f)

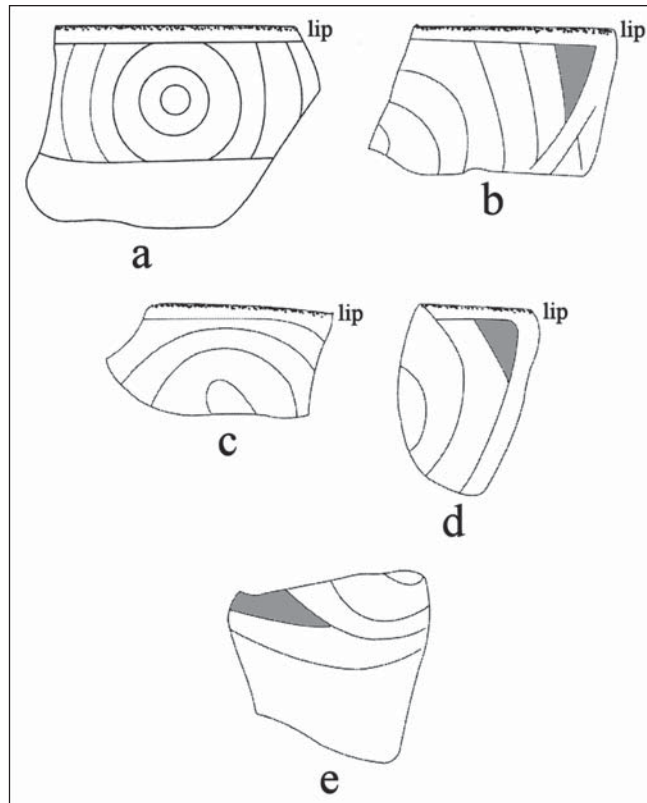


Figure 2. Decorative elements on Holly Fine Engraved rim and body sherds from 41TT321.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: 41TT321

VESSEL NO.: 2

VESSEL FORM: Square bowl with rim peaks

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct and exterior thickened 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 body

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

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 5.5 mm; body, 7.9 mm; base, 8.6 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

HEIGHT (IN CM): 7.7

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 10.5

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

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 7.0; square and rounded

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.3

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The upper part of the vessel has three horizontal engraved lines; the rim peaks have engraved concentric semi-circles. The remainder of the vessel has at least two, but probably four, engraved concentric circles nestled between concentric semi-circular lines. One of these lines has an excised triangle element pendant from the end of the engraved line (Figure 3).

PIGMENT USE AND LOCATION ON VESSEL: none

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Spiro Engraved (see Suhm and Jelks 1962:Plate 74e)

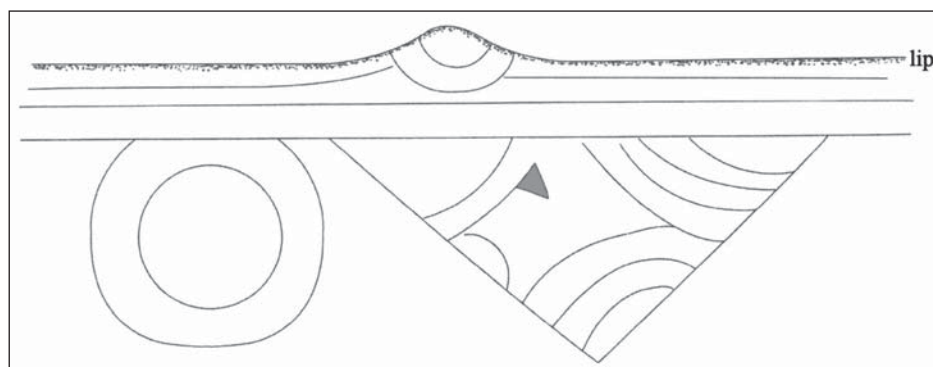


Figure 3. Decorative elements on Spiro Engraved vessel section from 41TT321.

SITE NAME OR SITE NUMBER: 41TT321

VESSEL NO.: 3

VESSEL FORM: Jar

NON-PLASTICS AND PASTE: grog

RIM AND LIP FORM: Direct rim and flat lip

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

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

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

WALL THICKNESS (IN MM): rim, 4.2 mm

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished

HEIGHT (IN CM): 8.9

ORIFICE DIAMETER (IN CM): 7.1

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK (IN CM): 6.8

BASE DIAMETER (IN CM) AND SHAPE OF BASE: 5.1; circular and flat

ESTIMATED VOLUME (IN LITERS): 0.4

DECORATION (INCLUDING MOTIF AND ELEMENTS WHEN APPARENT): The vessel rim has five horizontal engraved lines. The vessel body is decorated with four alternate sets of engraved concentric circles (four or five concentric semi-circular lines), and the innermost semi-circle is excised (Figure 4).

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

TYPE AND VARIETY (IF KNOWN): Holly Fine Engraved

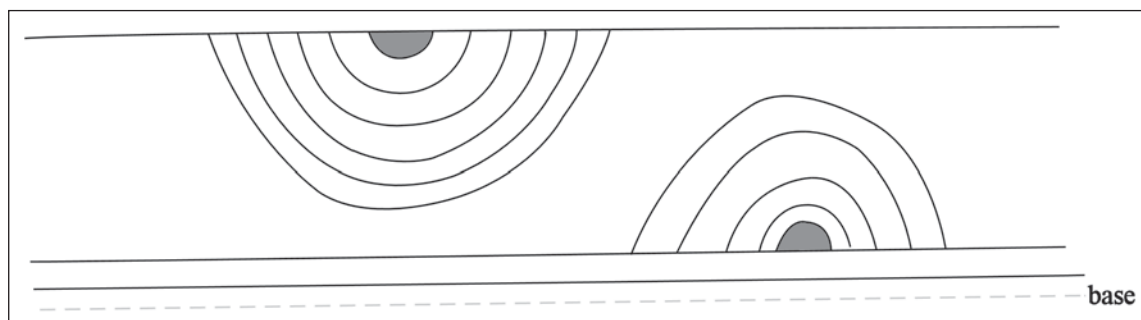


Figure 4. Decorative elements on body of Holly Fine Engraved vessel section from 41TT321.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The three ceramic vessels from 41TT321 are from an Early Caddo period (ca. A.D. 1000-1200) burial context. They include a small Spiro Engraved bowl with rim peaks and two small Holly Fine Engraved vessels: a bowl and a jar. The vessels are tempered with grog (67 percent) and grog-bone (33 percent).

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