

PREHISTORIC ABORIGINAL POTTERY OF THE PEORIA REGION

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This paper deals with aboriginal pottery of the Illinois River valley around Peoria. Its aim is to give a general report on the types characteristic of the various cultural developments of the area as represented by ware collected by members of the archaeological section of the Peoria Academy of Science.

Sherds in numbers varying from a few to thousands have been yielded by 16 villages and camps. These reveal materials, shapes, sizes, weights, decorations and rim treatment. Matching fragments were assembled into reconstructed or projected vessels. All pottery included is considered to be prehistoric as no relics show evidence of contact with white men.

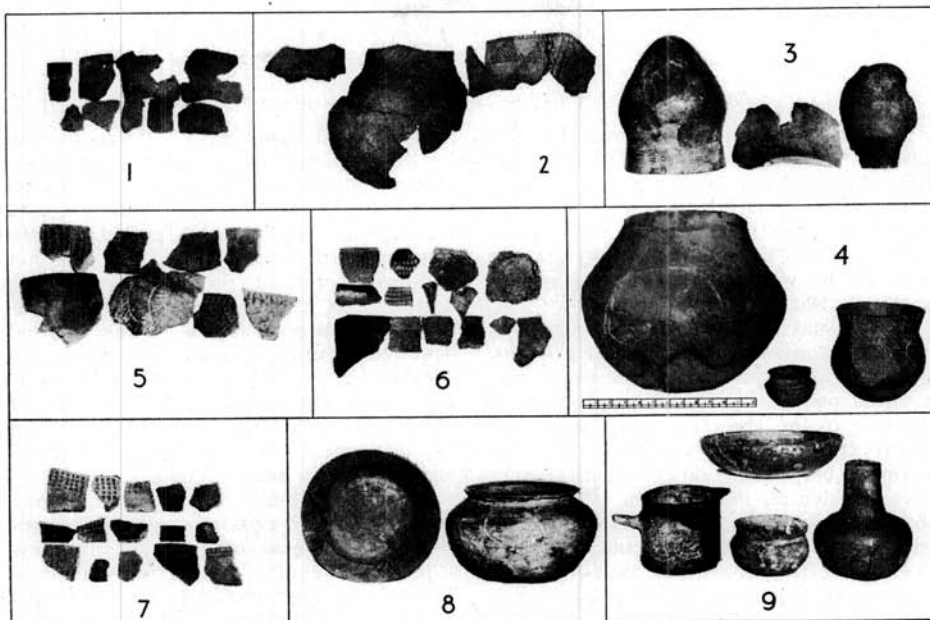
Wares are of two temperings, grit and shell, characterizing three classifications, Woodland, Mississippi, and Hopewell. The grit-tempered is dominant at 12 sites and the shell, at 4. Foreign sherds indicate intercourse.

The wares differ, also, in forms, number of forms, finish, and decorative technique. Each includes smooth and fabric-, or cord-roughened surfaces and several weights. The smooth surface prevails in the shell-tempered, and the roughened, in the grit-tempered. Expression emphasizes form in the shell-tempered, and surface decoration in the grit ware. Shell-tempered ware has six forms, and

handles and effigies occur; the other has two forms but neither handles nor effigies. Decoration is on the body in the one, and on the neck, in the other.

Shell-tempered ware prevails at the Kingston, Hildemaier, LaMarsh and Ivy Club sites but only Kingston yielded a large amount. It produced thousands of sherds and a number of projected vessels. Forms include an olla, shallow bowl, large plate, water-bottle, beaker, cup, and variations. Incising in geometrical designs, the common technique, appears on olla shoulder, inner plate rim, and side of beaker. Kingston¹ ware has been described briefly previously and will be considered in detail in a later report.

Grit-tempered ware has been collected at the Clear Lake, Steuben, Rensch, Moss-ville, Blumenshine, Blalock, Copperas Creek, Williams, Dickison, and several other sites. A wide-mouthed amphora and a globular bowl are the forms. Cord-roughening is prevalent and shows no cross thread. Decoration employs chiefly the punchmark, stamped impression, and exterior boss, and, less commonly, incised or trailed lines. Stamps, most frequent, are the compound punch, cord-wrapped cylinder, cord decoration, and crescent, and less common, the snowshoe and the linear. See Fig. 5. The cord decoration is found on globular bowls only. Roulet-



EXPLANATION OF PLATE

Clear Lake Types of Grit Tempered Ware.—1. Type 3 showing characteristic cross-hatched rim and alternate area body decoration. 2. Type 5 showing characteristic cord-decoration and raised rim points. 3. Type 2a amphora, projected, type 3a rim, and type 2 amphora, portion. 5. Type 2 showing punchstamp, boss, (row 1); punctate, alternate area, and snowshoe (row 2). 6. Types 2a, 1 and 6 (row 1); type 7 and undetermined (4?) (row 2); type 2a (row 3). **Grit Tempered Ware from Other Sites.**—4. Mossville vessels. 7. Steuben site rims (row 1); Blumenshine site rims (row 2); Rensch and Mossville sites rims (row 3). **Shell Tempered Ware from Kingston Site.**—8. Plate and olla. 9. Shallow bowl, beaker with handle, small bowl or cup, water bottle.

ting or continuous line made with punch-stamps placed end to end is infrequent.

The Clear Lake site², previously reported by Doctors Cole and Deuel, has yielded in the Simpson and Schoenbeck collections, 650 rims, 250 decorated sherds, 2 amphoras, and hundreds of body sherds, —an amount stated by Dr. Deuel to be sufficient to affect conclusions. Material was excavated, mostly at the 4' to 7' depth. The heavy type 2 mostly punch-stamped and bossed and but little punctated and the lighter 3a prevail. See Fig. 3. This report adds to the types already credited the distinctive type 3 with the channeled collar and the crushed rock type 6 and possibly, type 4.

The Steuben site has produced 165 rims, and hundreds of sherds. Two types,

a heavy and a lighter, occur and the prevailing heavy type is characterized by crude punching and red clay. Rensch pottery consists of 107 rims, mostly stamped, a globular pot, and sherds, and includes several weights. Sherds are small. Mossville collections include 6 heavy amphoras and cord-decorated globular bowls and sherds,—all excavated. Ware from Blumenshine site shows, almost entirely, a cord-decorated shouldered form, with short neck, medium weight. Other sites show no outstanding dissimilarities.

¹ Bulletin, "The Kingston Village Site" published by Peoria Academy of Science, 1939.

² "Rediscovering Illinois" by Cole and Deuel, University of Chicago publication, 1937.