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A CERAMIC SEQUENCE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

JOHN M. GOGGIN

In September of 1936 the author and his father, Dr. John W. Goggin, of Miami, made an archaeological survey of portions of the southwest Florida coast. Among the sites visited was a shell mound at Gordon's Pass, south of Naples, in Collier County. This site is particularly interesting because of the stratigraphy observed there and the ceramic sequence involved.

This shell mound or midden is located near the end of a long arm or peninsula that extends south of the town of Naples and forms the north end of Gordon's Pass. To the west is the Gulf of Mexico. To the east is a large bay with a border of mangrove swamp. This bay is the northern terminus of the Ten Thousand Islands. The mound itself is in the swamp and only about fifty yards from the sand beach that lies to the west. The vegetation on the mound is a hammock of West Indian hardwoods, many of which approach their northern limit in this area and when found are only on similar sites. The most conspicuous of these is the Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*). The content of the mound is mostly shell with lenses and layers of ashes and black soil. The principal shells are *Busycon perversum*, *Ostrea sp.*, *Venus sp.*, *Strombus sp.*, and *Fasciolaria sp.* This mound does not seem to have received much attention in archaeological literature. At one time an aboriginal canal existed to the north of the shell mound and connected the bay with the gulf. It has been described by earlier writers¹ and is marked on an early map.² According to local residents it was lined with the trunks of cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*) but it has recently been filled in because it was a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

The mound is quite large and the long axis lies north and south. Its length is approximately 200 yards and the width is about 75 yards, but the exact site is difficult to determine because of its destruction. When it was visited, the main body of the mound had been removed to provide road metal. The original surface was left only in isolated patches and the intervening sections had in some instances been removed down to below low tide level.

The highest remaining section was only about six feet from the original surface to the bottom of the mound. This particular section showed a very interesting stratigraphic sequence of shells, black soil, and ashes (see Figure 1). The general tendency of all the layers was

1. "Ancient canals in Florida," Charles J. Kenworthy, *Smith Ann. Rept.*, 1881. He did not see the shell heap as he says "no large settlement ever existed in the neighborhood of the canal," page 635. F. H. Cushing also visited it. "Exploration of Ancient Key Dwellers Remains on the Gulf Coast of Florida," *Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc.* vol. 35, 1898. Ales Hrdlicka mentions it in *The Anthropology of Florida*, Fla. State Historical Society, Deland, 1922.

2. Sectional Map of Florida, Florida Southern Railway Co., Jacksonville, 1888.

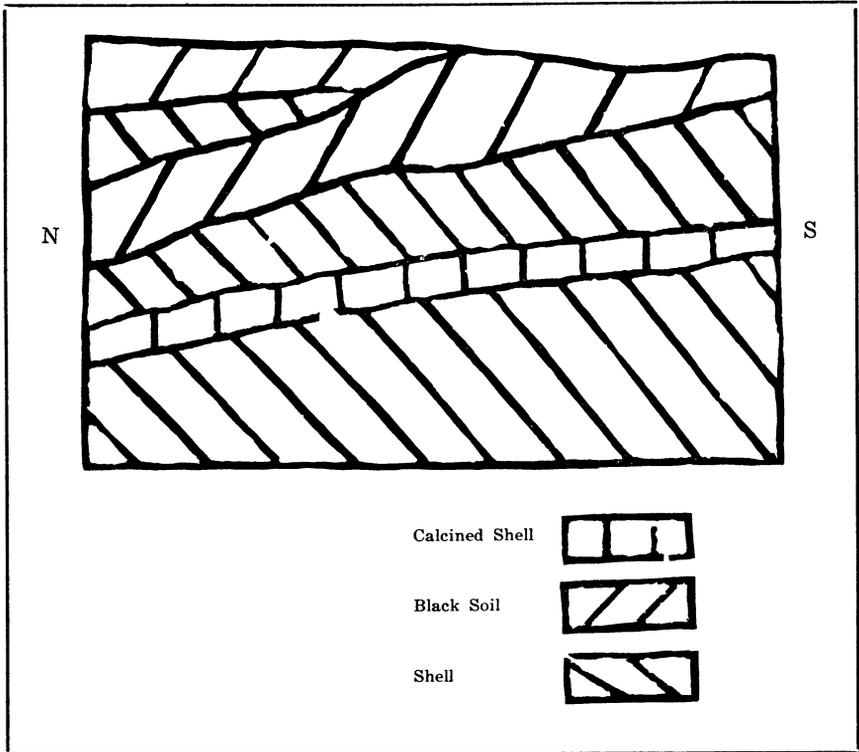


FIGURE 1

to dip to the north as though the later refuse had been continually deposited on the north side of the embryonic shell heap. A further examination of surrounding sections showed the same northward dip of strata in the greater number of sections. In no instance did any of the strata dip to the south, but a few were level.

Having already, in a cursory examination collected a number of shards both plain and incised it was decided to make a careful collection to see if the earlier end (that is the southern) showed any ceramic difference from the later end. Three roughly equal sections were decided upon. A large number of shards were collected from each area and kept separate. The southern section produced only plain ware. The middle section produced mostly plain ware but possibly 1 per cent of the shards were incised. The northern section produced about 10 per cent incised shards, a few with fugitive red paint and the remainder plain ware. Due to the broken nature of the ground the shards in each section were collected at all levels from the original surface to tide level in the excavated portions. There was a slight possibility of mixture between sections because shell removed from the north section by contractors had to go through parts of the middle on trucks to be taken

out. Some of the incised ware may have been moved in this way but the possibility is not great.

Evidence would, therefore, tend to indicate that the southern portion of the shell heap is the earliest and that it was built to the northward. During this northward extension the art of incising ceramics appeared.

The pottery found in the mound is mostly of a single type. This type is widely distributed in southern Florida but no one has yet published an analytical description of it. A shard analysis has been made and a description of the types will be given. The shards used came from three village sites. They were picked for availability of material and importance of location. One lot of shards came from a shell mound north of Miami Beach in the present village of Surfside.³ Another lot came from a midden at Coot Bay just north of Flamingo near Cape Sable. The other lot came from the Gordon's Pass mound. A comparative list of figures is given in Chart 1. In this analysis the hardness figure was recorded in differences of .5 of a point.

GLADES GRITTY WARE⁴

Paste: The paste, in general, tends to be quite friable. On exposure it quickly weathers to a gritty surface due to the presence of the heavy tempering of quartz sand. A few shards have been found with a partial shell tempering but this appears to be accidental as the shells are minute unbroken marine gastropods. Possibly the whole shells are naturally deposited in the clay area from which the Indians derived their material. Other shards depart from the norm by having a temper of very fine quartz sand but they are uncommon. The ware is very poorly fired; only 9 per cent of the specimens examined approached a complete firing. Sixty-two per cent showed a decided carbon streak with one or both walls yellow to orange. As a rule the inside wall shows some sign of complete firing as does the rim. This is, no doubt, due to the manner in which the pot was fired. It is probable that the pot was turned upside down and a fire was built around it. The inside was protected from smoke and was more completely oxidized. The remainder of the shards are black throughout.

Hardness: The range in hardness is from 2.5 to 5.5. The average hardness is about 3.5. Upon weathering the hardness is decreased. A group of shards collected on the surface will average one point softer than a similar group from within a mound.

Thickness: The range in thickness varies from 2.5 mm to 11 mm. The average is 6 mm. The range in some shards may amount to as

3. At this site this ware was accomplished by another—Biscayne Chalky Ware—which will be described in a future publication. At the other sites only the one kind of pottery was found.

4. This is the ware that has been called "Glades Ware" by Dr. M. W. Stirling ("Florida Cultural Affiliations in Relation to Adjacent Areas," *Essays in Anthropology*, page 353). In accordance with recent trends towards binomial nomenclature the term has been expanded.

much as 3 or 4 mms. Rim shards tend to be thinner than body shards. The result is that the thickness has been somewhat arbitrarily taken but yet, groups of shards from different sites average up quite closely. (See chart 1.)

Surface: The surface is rather smooth and quite often marked by the smoothing tool. It is never polished. Usually a network of fine cracks covers the surface. The color varies considerably. Black, grey, yellow, orange, and red and numerous shades between these are found.

Decoration: Decoration is not common. When it is found the commonest type consists of one or two parallel lines incised below the rim. Occasionally other types such as the "feathered" design, pendant crescents, or a series of chevrons occur incised below the rim. In some examples the incising seems to have been done while the clay was plastic and others show that the clay was dry when the design was applied. No examples of this paddle stamped ware have been found in south Florida.

Form: The shape of the vessel is generally that of a large bowl. Straight sided vessels are rare. No whole pottery vessels are known from south Florida, therefore, conclusions as to form must be based on shards. Rim forms are variable. Thirty-four different types have been identified in this ware and there is a strong possibility that more will be found at every new site. Some of the rims are grooved, others have been crimped like a pie crust. Notching with a finger nail or stick was also practiced. One shard with small round applique bosses just below the rim was found at Miami Beach. Some of the rim types are widely distributed in southern Florida, others are found in only one site.

At this Gordon's Pass site the incised shards of Glades Gritty Ware are all of the "feathered" design (Figure 2).⁵

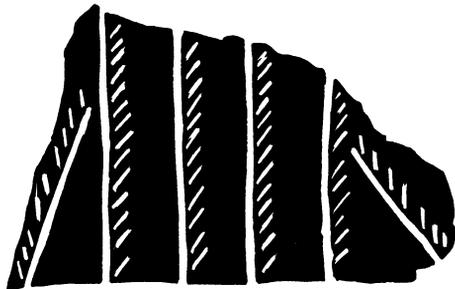


FIGURE 2
½ size

Its distribution is rather sporadic. According to Stirling it is found particularly on Key Marco, a few specimens were found at Miami, and the northernmost occurrence is at a shell mound on

5. Name used by Dr. M. W. Sterling, personal communication, July 20, 1937.

CHART 1
GLADES GRITTY WARE

	Miami Beach	Coot Bay	Gordon's Pass	Average
Number of shards used	100	40	60	
Range of hardness	2.5 to 5.5	2.5 to 4.5	2.5 to 4.	2.5 to 5.5
Average hardness	3.59	3.55	3.6	3.56
Range of thickness	4 mm. to 11 mm.	2.5 mm. to 11 mm.	3 mm. to 11 mm.	2.5 mm. to 11 mm.
Average thickness	6.5 mm.	5.35 mm.	6.3 mm.	6. mm.
Per cent of shards completely fired or nearly so	12%	5%	10%	9%
Per cent of shards with carbon streak and yellow or orange sides	63%	65%	58%	62%
Friability	Pronounced	Marked	Pronounced	
Number of different rim types	21	11	9	34 different
Percentage of rim shards of classified specimens	61%	37%	45%	
Temper	Quartz Sand (two with shell, one with limestone)	Quartz Sand	Quartz Sand (three with shell)	Quartz Sand

Perico Island near Bradenton.⁶ However, it has never been described or figured.⁷ The vessel forms all seem to be bowls with inward slanting lips.

The only other ware found was a few shards of a fugitive red ware. They resemble the Glades Gritty Ware in paste but most of the specimens have a combination shell and sand tempering. This ware is sparsely and widely distributed throughout the state and it is possible the pieces found here were traded in.

Other artifacts found were perforated *Arca ponderosa* shells such as are common to the area and have been generally supposed to have been tied in bunches and used for net sinkers. Also the typical pick made from *Busycon perversum* is represented in the collection by several examples. An unidentified artifact is a rectangular section of clam shell (*Venus sp.*) with a circular notch on one side.



A METHOD FOR CATALOGING PICTOGRAPHS

WESLEY HURT, JR.

Reviewing the archaeological literature of North America, the writer was impressed by the fact that in comparison with the publications devoted to the stone artifacts, pottery, and architecture of the Indians, practically nothing has been written about their pictographs. Scattered throughout several publications are a few brief paragraphs describing the pictographs of certain areas, which, however, give little or no information as to the percentages of the various types of their distribution over wider areas. There are, nevertheless, a few publications by Renaud, Stewart, Jackson, and Mallery which give more detailed information about the pictographs in the areas which they studied.

The small amount of intensive work done on the pictographs is probably the result of one of three things: the lack of interest in the subject, the lack of field material for research, or the fact that as yet there is no adequate method of publishing the results of an intensive pictograph survey without the necessity of using a very large number of plates to illustrate the hundreds of pictograph types and their variations.

Although the use of a large number of plates is the ideal method of presenting the material, it is prohibitive, from a practical standpoint, due to the cost of the plates. If it is desirable to have more publications written about pictographs, it is necessary to find other methods by which the material can be adequately presented.

6. *Ibid.*

7. An exception to this statement is a "feathered" design shard illustrated in a popular newspaper article by Allan L. Cass, "Indian Finds Cast New Light on Florida," *Miami Daily News*, July 29, 1934.