

Pueblos and Vecinos: Cultural Diversity and the Mass Production and Consumption of Tewa Pottery (1760-1870)

Perceptions about Pueblo pottery produced during the late 18th and 19th century are largely based on polychrome jars in collections. Recent archeological investigations of Hispanic sites in and near Santa Fe dating to this period indicate that such vessels were culled by early collectors from a larger suite of pottery forms previously produced for domestic consumption for Pueblos and Hispanic settlers. The range of traits noted for this pottery reflect conventions associated with the mass-production and barter of native produced vessels for rapidly expanding Hispanic communities or Vecinos. In different areas of Colonial New Mexico, the need for large amounts of native pottery was met by the increased production of pottery by various Pueblo groups as well as the adoption of Pueblo ceramic technology by Apache and Hispanic groups. Most, although certainly not all, of the native pottery recovered from Hispanic sites in the Santa Fe area dating to the very late Spanish Colonial, Mexican, and early Territorial periods appear to have been produced in nearby Tewa Pueblo villages. Examinations of this pottery provide clues about the nature of the mass-production of a wide range of forms for diverse and growing populations.

Houses and Trash: New Perspectives from Pottery Recovered at Archaeological Sites

Descriptions and images of painted jars in museum and private collections have long formed the basis for definitions of Powhoge Polychrome known to have been produced over a long period.



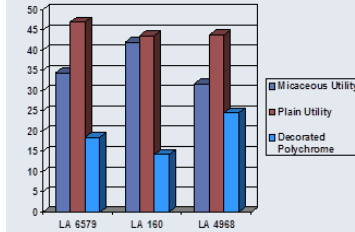
Powhoge Polychrome jar from the Museum of New Mexico collections. Provenience is unknown but it is thought to have been produced during the mid 19th century.

Investigations of late 18th and 19th century contexts, including the Palace of the Governors and a diverse range of smaller sites in Santa Fe and the Tewa Basin, have resulted in the recovery and analysis of large samples of pottery, most of which appear to be represented by Tewa pottery types.



LA 6579 (Romero House) Late 18th to early 19th century.

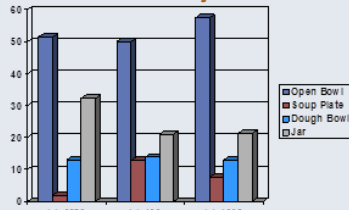
Polychrome vessels make up a low frequency of the pottery from these archaeological sites. Similarities in the characteristics and frequencies of different ware groups noted for this pottery indicate the widespread use and perseverance of similar ceramic technologies.



Frequencies of ware groups noted at three Hispanic sites in the southern Tewa Basin investigated during the Pojoaque Corridor Project.

Early Powhoge Polychrome: Kitchens and Identity

Powhoge Polychrome from archaeological contexts displays a wide range of forms. Bold and simple designs characteristic of this type reflect conventions facilitating the mass production of domestic vessels by Pueblo potters for distribution to other groups as well as the aesthetics of Vecino consumers that resulted in the merging of Pueblo and European designs.



Frequencies of vessel forms noted for Pojoaque Polychrome rim sherds.



Open bowl (Palace of the Governors)

Interior designs on eating bowls are similar to those on similar forms common in exported majolica.

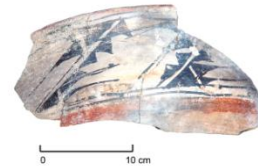


Soup Plate (Palace of the Governors)



Dough Bowl (LA 4968)

Vessel forms, originally used in food preparation and storage that were decorated on the exterior surface, began to be collected in the late 19th century, forming the basis of current images about historic Pueblo pottery.



Jar (LA 6579)

Dean Wilson
OAS
Museum of
New Mexico
Santa Fe

Plain and Micaceous Utility Ware: Mass Production of Domestic Pottery

As is the case for earlier historic period pottery assemblages from the Santa Fe area, those from contexts dating to this period are overwhelmingly dominated by simple but very well-made utility ware forms reflected by the two distinct groups.



La 4968

Cooking pots are dominated by forms with smudged polished interiors and thin micaceous slips produced by Tewa potters, although other sources are also represented.



Rail Yard Project

Forms typical of Tewa Micaceous cooking jars

Variation in paste, form, and application of red slips in Plain Ware types is similar to that observed in Powhoge Polychrome. The plain ware types represent expediently produced variations of decorated forms. Application of a range of slips result in appearances similar to that noted in pottery utilized across much of the Spanish Colonial sphere. Slips applied over polished surfaces, that were often but not always smudged, created hard impervious surfaces useful in various domestic activities.

Pottery assigned to San Juan-on-tan are fairly similar in the distribution off forms represented as well as overall appearance but are not painted.



It can be difficult to discern Polished Red from Black Ware types. Bowl (LA 4968)



San Juan Red-on-tan Soup Plate (LA 4968)



Tewa Black Jar (Palace of the Governors)