

Handbook of Texas Archeology:
TYPE DESCRIPTIONS

Initial Series of Descriptions

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A Cumulative Compendium of Type Descriptions

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BORGER CORDMARKED



A



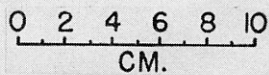
B



C



D



BORGER CORDMARKED

(Plate 8)

METHOD OF MANUFACTURE

Undetermined.

PASTE

Temper: Crushed quartz, sand, and mica; usually two or more of these substances are used in the same vessel. Crushed bone also occurs, especially in the eastern part of the Panhandle.

Texture: Usually quite compact and hard, broken edges sharp, but thicker vessels may be friable.

Color: Darker shades of gray and brown are most usual, but some are orange-brown and others nearly black. A light red wash occasionally occurs on the interior. Cores dark gray to black. Soot and grease stains are common.

Surface finish: Interiors poorly to fairly well smoothed but bumpy; exteriors covered with cordmarks.

FORM

Wall thickness: Extreme range 2 to 12 mm., but many are quite thin, from 2 to 4 mm., with a tendency for vessels to be thinner toward the bottom than at the top.

Lip: Rounded or flat and flush with rim.

Base: Convex bottoms with no distinguishable base.

Vessel shape and size: The jar is only form yet recognized, but there is considerable variation in proportions of mouth and body diameters, and bodies may be globular (Plate 8, A, B) to rather elongated. Rims generally meet the body at a definite angle and slope inward or outward slightly, or stand vertical; in some cases, body and rim merge in a gentle curve with the mouth considerably smaller in diameter than the body. Vessel size is on the whole rather uniform, restored specimens ranging between 20 and 30 cm. in total height with rims 3 to 6 cm. high; bodies range from 23 to 31 cm. in maximum diameter, mouths 14 to 22 cm. Lugs and handles are apparently absent.

DECORATION

Treatment: Cord impressions; rarely, incising and fingernail punctating.

Designs: Impressions of fine cords cover the entire exterior of vessels, almost always placed vertically on body and rim alike, but

occasionally in grids that tend to cross one another (Plate 8, A, rather definitely; B, C, partially). In some instances, cordmarking on the rim is partly smoothed over and a single deeply incised line or a row of fingernail punctations encircles the vessel at the rim-body juncture. Lips may be deeply notched on the outer edge.

CULTURAL AFFILIATIONS

An Antelope Creek Focus type, related to *Stamper Cordmarked* of the Optima Focus in the Oklahoma Panhandle (Watson, 1950). Also bears a general relationship to scores of types of cordmarked pottery in the Great Plains and Woodland areas of the United States and Canada. While probably more or less coeval with Upper Republican culture cordmarked wares, *Borger* lacks the specialized rim and lip treatments, incising, etc., which distinguish the former.

DISTRIBUTION

Canadian River drainage system in the upper Texas Panhandle and lower plains along the eastern side of the Panhandle, probably extending into western Oklahoma; known as far east as Young County on the upper Brazos River. Jack T. Hughes (correspondence, 1959) notes a significant increase in the incidence of bone temper in the eastern portion of the Panhandle.

ESTIMATED AGE

First estimated at 1300-1450 A.D. because of association with Puebloan trade pottery from New Mexico; now estimated at 1100 or 1200 to 1450 A.D.

REFERENCES

Studer, 1934, pp. 92-94, Plate 15; Krieger, 1946, pp. 44, 56-58. (Both authors describe this pottery without naming it.) Suhm, Krieger, and Jelks, 1954, pp. 390-392, Plates 75, 76.

PROVENIENCE OF ILLUSTRATED SPECIMENS

Vessels from excavations in Canadian River valley. Photographs furnished by the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, Canyon, Texas.

Description by Dee Ann Suhm, Alex D. Krieger, and Edward B. Jelks; 1954.