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For instance, no warming stones could be identified positively as such, but a number of the illustrated museum specimens may very well be. On the one hand, then, Hudson and Blackburn took greater liberties than they should have in attributing archaeological items to the tribes under study, while on the other, they have proposed likely uses of otherwise enigmatic archaeological specimens.

These issues aside, Hudson and Blackburn should be commended for their considerable efforts at compiling all this diverse information into a readily usable form. Of all the categories of material culture described in the five volumes, those covered by this volume must have been more difficult to deal with because many of the formal attributes of these items are purely symbolic, thus causing a number of problems in linking classes of material objects with specific documentary descriptions.

#### REFERENCE

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- 1984 *Review of The Material Culture of the Chumash Interaction Sphere, Vols. I and II.* *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 6:285-287.



*Pottery of the Great Basin and Adjacent Areas.* Suzanne Griset, ed. University of Utah *Anthropological Papers* No. 111, 1986, 170 pp., 34 figs., 5 tables, annotated and indexed bibliography, \$17.50 (paper).

*Reviewed by:*

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The papers in this volume represent the results of a pottery workshop held in April, 1983, in Bishop, California, to discuss the

"plain wares" of the Great Basin and adjacent areas. In contrast to many other regions of North America, pottery analysis has not received the kind of attention that it perhaps deserves. The ceramics of the Great Basin consist, for the most part, of undecorated "utility" pottery manufactured in relatively simple vessel forms that lack the diagnostic characteristics of decorated ceramics so useful in other regions for establishing chronological control or assigning cultural affiliation. As the editor of this volume points out, the plain ware pottery of the Great Basin is "understudied, often neglected, and largely misunderstood." The present volume is an attempt to remedy this situation by determining the status of ceramic analysis in the region, and the direction that future studies should take. The 12 papers making up the volume are presented under three major headings: (1) Overviews of Great Basin Ceramic Analysis; (2) Areal Reports; and (3) Analytic Approaches.

The "Overview" section contains two papers originally written in 1959 and 1983 respectively. Interestingly, although written over 20 years apart, both make a similar argument about the "brown ware" pottery of the Great Basin: that although there is considerable variability in the plain wares of the region, the definition of three distinct "wares" (Southern Paiute Utility Ware, Owens Valley Brown Ware, and Shoshoni Ware) previously defined for various Great Basin regions, is premature. However, the reasons for this conclusion are somewhat different. Prince's article, representing a period when relatively little had been published on Great Basin ceramics, argued that, in contrast to surrounding regions, Great Basin plain wares resembled one another fairly closely, and that they represented "local variations within a single pottery-making tradition."

Pippin's paper, on the other hand, is a critical review of both the ethnological and archeological evidence relating to plain ware pottery in the Basin. Specifically, he assesses the validity of the dating of the various "wares," examines the conceptual schemes put forth to explain the origin of plain pottery in the region, and reviews interpretations of linguistic or ethnic affiliation based on the distribution of plain pottery. Pippin concludes that the chronological control of plain pottery is insufficient to justify confidence except on a very general level, suggests that the discussion of the origins of pottery use are simplistic (and undemonstrated), and questions the use of pottery distributions to establish linguistic groups. Pippin argues that pottery analysis should emphasize the analysis of provenienced assemblages, and variability within and among them, rather than pottery types.

The "Areal Reports" section consists of six papers primarily describing ethnographic or archeological ceramic assemblages. Tuohy's paper is a description of eight whole vessels, including photos and documentation, collected in the course of ethnographic research carried out by him. Butler's paper describes the various "types" of gray ware pottery in eastern Idaho, and their relationships in time and space. Eastern Idaho is a region of the Basin where there is evidence of a sequence of pottery types in which three distinct wares, Desert Gray Ware (Fremont pottery), Promontory pottery, and "Shoshonean" pottery, called Generic Basin Ware by Butler, occur. Although Butler believes the Generic Basin Ware in Idaho reflects a culturally distinct product from the earlier wares, he notes that all of these "wares" overlap sufficiently to sometimes cause identification problems.

The paper by the Riddells describes three sherds recovered from the Honey Lake Val-

ley in California. Mack's paper describes plain brown ware pottery from south-central Oregon, which she named Siskiyou Utility Ware. Wallace's contribution describes pottery from Mesquite Flat in Death Valley, California. Weaver's paper is primarily a distributional analysis of pottery-bearing sites in Mono and Inyo counties in California using inventory data. Pottery-bearing sites were rare in Mono County (1.9% of sites) in contrast to Inyo County (20.5%). Weaver interprets this difference as reflecting different cultural use patterns of the regions involved.

The "Analytical Approaches" section of the volume presents papers that attempt to indicate new ways of approaching the study of ceramics in the Great Basin. Tuohy and Strawn's paper describes the results of a thin-section analysis of 36 plain ware sherds from various areas of Nevada (28 sherds), as well as California, Baja California, and Idaho (eight sherds). In addition, previous mounts of thin-sections done by Coale were reanalyzed. The authors conclude that the materials used in the manufacture of brown ware ceramics reflect primarily the local geology. Thus, temper studies alone cannot serve as the basis for typology. They do raise the possibility, however, that certain kinds of rock inclusions, such as basalt, may be indicative of particular manufacturing locales. However, too little thin-section analysis has been carried out, and the sample size is far too small to provide definitive information on the temper characteristics of pottery over such a large region. Nevertheless, the use of such techniques in a more systematic way should provide significant results.

Bettinger's paper argues that the traditional classification of plain brown pottery into wares is inadequate. In Bettinger's view, previous ware definitions do not in

fact identify "culturally meaningful attributes that distinguish the ceramics of one folk from those of another," but represent only "ethnogeographical locations." Bettinger outlines a procedure to improve pottery description by quantifying ceramic attributes. He illustrates this approach by analyzing the surface treatments observed on sherds from three different Owens Valley assemblages using Robinson's Index of Agreement. He concludes that there is a clear pattern of exterior surface treatment among the three assemblages and among vessels, but interior and joint exterior-interior surface treatments, although found in similar proportions, vary between vessels. There remains the question of just what these patterns mean, and their implication for pottery typology. Bettinger concludes that if the same pattern observed in the Owens Valley assemblages holds for other Great Basin ceramics, then there would be only a single type. On the other hand, significant variability in Great Basin ceramics in this respect might suggest a number of different types. Bettinger therefore argues that it is inopportune to make definitive typological assignments without first carefully analyzing the range of both intersite and interregional variation. It remains to be seen whether the patterns discerned by Bettinger in Owens Valley form the basis for a culturally meaningful classification relative to the large issue of Great Basin ceramics. Nevertheless, the approach he advocates, a quantitative comparison of pottery assemblages from the various Great Basin regions, is precisely the kind of approach that will best advance our understanding of the differences and similarities among Great Basin plain wares.

James' paper attempts to use ceramics to address the question of the relationship between the Fremont heartland of Utah and sites in the western periphery (primarily

eastern Nevada) that contain Fremont pottery. James notes that there are three major hypotheses concerning the relationship of the western periphery to the heartland: (1) the heartland villagers used the western periphery as a seasonal hunting and gathering range; (2) pottery-using Fremont, who were, however, essentially hunters and gatherers rather than farmers, occupied the western periphery; (3) non-Fremont peoples occupied the periphery, but Fremont pottery was traded to them, thus accounting for its presence in the region. James attempts to test these hypotheses through analysis of vessel function as revealed by Fremont pottery assemblages in the western periphery. He argues that the relationship between vessel form and vessel function established for the ethnographic Southwest, and projected for the prehistoric period in the Southwest, probably is applicable to Fremont ceramics also. James then defines the kinds of settlement types and associated functions that would be expected under each of the above hypotheses, along with the implications for the kinds of pottery vessels (representing different functions) that ought to be found if the hypothesis were correct. After examining ceramic and settlement data from 94 sites in the western periphery, James concludes that the ceramic pattern suggests his second hypothesis, although his third hypothesis cannot be ruled out. The caveats to such an approach are manifold. The assumption of vessel function from vessel shape without any means of testing this proposition, the assumption that Fremont vessel forms, and thus function, are analogous to the alleged prehistoric Anasazi pattern, and the failure to establish alternative hypotheses for particular ceramic distributions are only a few of these. James is not, however, unaware of some of the weaknesses of his approach, and has pointed out

several ways to strengthen this kind of study. It is an approach well worth considering in addressing the interpretation of other ceramic assemblages in the Great Basin.

Griset's concluding paper is primarily methodological. She notes that the analysis of ceramics includes two distinct, but related processes--description analysis and interpretive analysis. The former is concerned with the description of artifacts, in this case pottery, through the use of typologies. She rightly points out that a typology is a tool to achieve some research objective, not an end in itself. Different typologies will answer different kinds of problems. Griset argues that different kinds of approaches to Great Basin ceramics are appropriate, and this volume demonstrates that such is indeed beginning to take place. She also emphasizes the need for standardization of terminology and measurement so as to facilitate intersite and interregional comparison. Interpretive analysis, on the other hand is concerned with the explanation of how the descriptive data relate to the cultural whole. Ceramic data can and should be used to examine particular research problems.

Perhaps one of the most useful aspects of this volume is an annotated and indexed bibliography on Great Basin ceramics and those of adjacent regions. Although not comprehensive, it is far superior to anything available on this topic to date, and should serve those interested in the study of ceramics in the Great Basin well.

On the whole, this volume is an important addition to the study of ceramics in the Great Basin. It reflects an intensified interest in pottery studies which usually have had a very low priority, and presents a number of new approaches to pottery analysis (for the Great Basin anyway), and the implications of such analysis for the under-

standing of past cultural systems. It certainly indicates a trend toward new directions in ceramic studies--something that is greatly needed in the Basin.



*Ghost Dance Songs and Religion of a Wind River Shoshone Woman*, Judith Vander. Los Angeles: Program in Ethnomusicology, Department of Music, University of California, Los Angeles, *Monograph Series in Ethnomusicology* No. 4, 1986, 76 pp., \$9.95.

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The songs and beliefs of Emily Hill are a principal focus for this examination of the Wind River Shoshone interpretation and development of the Ghost Dance religious movement. Emily Hill may be the only contemporary practitioner of the Naraya, or Wind River Shoshone Ghost Dance religion, and this study is unique in the literature in considering the largest number of songs from one singer. An examination of idiosyncratic features of individual songs, rather than a sole focus on shared common traits, yields a rare depth of analysis in which many dimensions of general cultural and historical significance are brought to bear. Vander goes beyond a technical interpretation of musical and poetic style to identify roots of artistic form in a general Shoshone ideology and world view.

From interviews with Emily Hill, as well as an examination of song texts, Vander identifies primary foci of the *Naraya* as the prevention and remedy of illness and disaster, and the maintenance and revitalization of good health and the fruitful cycles of