

Pipestone Residue on Drills from a Great Bend Aspect Site

Alison M. Hadley

Abstract

The double-ended, parallel-sided lithic tools from the Tobias Site (14RC8), a Great Bend Aspect site in Rice County, Kansas, were classified as “pipe drills” by Waldo Wedel (1959:269). This research is an attempt to determine if these specific tools were used to drill red pipestone pipes. Experimental drills are used to drill pipestone, in order to replicate the residue patterns. Analysis of the drills involves a 10x-40x microscope and a scanning electron microscope. The analysis reveals microscopic pipestone residue on the archaeological drills that is similar to residue on the experimental drills. Pipestone use-wear is also documented on the archaeological drills. This evidence demonstrates that some of the double-ended, parallel-sided drills were used on pipestone. Additionally, the use-history of these tools is not as straightforward as is implied by the term pipe drill.

Spanish Colonialism in Nebraska? Determining the Indirect Effects of Colonialism on the Dismal River Aspect (A.D.1650-1725)

Sarah J. Trabert

Abstract

Protohistoric Native Americans living on the Plains were linked with people in the Southwest, and as Puebloan groups experienced social and economic disruption stemming from Spanish colonization, many traveled to the Plains bringing with them their own cultural practices and technology. Much is known concerning the impacts that European colonization had on Native Americans living where direct contact took place, but less is known about how the effects of these social and demographic changes spread to regions beyond the borders of colonial control. The ceramics from four Dismal River aspect sites in Nebraska were chosen for analysis because Dismal River aspect groups were poised at an important crossroads between the Plains and the Southwest. Although, the re-analysis of these ceramics indicates limited influence from the Southwest, they do provide greater insight into the variation found in Dismal River aspect ceramic assemblages and the influences that other Plains groups may have had on this group.

Assessing the Radiocarbon Age Determinations Dataset and Revising the Chronology for the Central Plains Tradition

Donna C. Roper

Abstract

The radiocarbon ages dataset for the Central Plains tradition has accumulated over a period of just over a half-century and now contains over 400 individual age determinations. A large number of these dates can be considered inaccurate, very imprecise, or at least suspect for one of a number of reasons. Yet Central Plains archaeologists still use most of them in expressing the regional chronology. This paper undertakes to assess the dataset using the process of chronometric hygiene. The text first reviews some considerations in reading and using radiocarbon dates and then moves to an overview of the Central Plains tradition dataset in terms

of sample material, what laboratory ran the age determination, and size of standard deviation. It then formulates a chronometric hygiene protocol appropriate for this dataset and applies it to the portion of the Central Plains tradition in the Kansas River basin and immediately adjacent Missouri River valley. The analysis proceeds on a context-by-context (usually individual lodges) basis. Contexts are grouped within ten localities. Full details of the analysis are provided, with commentary as appropriate. From this analysis, largely unencumbered by invalid dates, emerges a sharp portrayal of the course of Central Plains tradition origins and expansion within the region. It began in the mid-1100s in the Steed-Kisker locality in northwest Missouri and the Salina area of central Kansas, expanded through the Kansas River basin over a period of a century or so, and persisted into the 1300s. The analysis points up places for which fuller coverage is necessary. The process is established, however, and will continue as feasible.

The Chadron State Park Site (25DW1), Dawes County, Nebraska

Terry L. Steinacher