

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE PHILIP MOUND
POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

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The Philip burial mound is situated near the eastern shore of Lake Marion in Polk County, Florida. Results of extensive salvage operations carried out at this site were reported in The Florida Anthropologist by Carl A. Benson (1967). The artifacts recovered were of both native and European origin and suggested a Safety Harbor period utilization with an overlap from the earlier Englewood period, ca. 1600-1700, or slightly earlier (Benson 1967:130-131). The author also conducted salvage operations before the mound was totally destroyed by pot hunters. This produced a number of artifacts which are not mentioned in Benson's report. The following describes these artifacts and presents some previously unreported observations.

Mass Pottery Deposit

An undisturbed area about six by four feet near the western edge of the mound yielded a large quantity of pot sherds, as well as the lip of a large conch shell and fragments of an iron colander. The sherds appeared at a depth of seven inches below the surface and continued down to the least 19 inches. The exact vertical extent of the deposit could not be determined due to the fact that this area was leveled by treasure hunters before excavation was completed. No skeletal remains were found in direct association with the deposit. Apparently, this pottery concentration represented a mass ceremonial offering, a feature common to both Englewood and Safety Harbor period burial mounds (Willey 1949: 471, 478).

A number of vessels were partially or totally restored from the sherds. All of these had been "killed". Some exhibited neat, round kill-holes made by striking the interior surface of the base. Others had had their entire bottoms knocked out. Belle Glade Plain pottery comprised the bulk of the deposit, although St. Johns Plain and St. Johns Check Stamped pottery was also well represented. Several sherds of a Pinellas Incised vessel were also found.

Belle Glade Plain vessel shapes included: simple bowls with round bottoms (Fig. 1, a) or flat ones; flattened globular bowls (Fig. 1, b); collared globular bowls; and small, deep bowls or pots (Fig. 1, c). St. Johns Check Stamped sherds bore from four to nine square checks per linear inch. Partially restored vessels consisted of simple, flat-bottomed bowls.

An unusual St. Johns Plain vessel consists of a flat-bottomed container

with everted sides (Fig. 1, e). Its lip is round and 5.0 mm thick. The exterior is smoothed; the interior is brushed. The juncture of the sides and base is sharp. The entire bottom had been knocked out. This vessel is 7.0 mm high; diameter of the orifice is 12.5-13.7 cm.; that of the base 7.5 cm.

The colander fragments (Fig. 2, b) mentioned previously have linear series of perforations. Holes are 2.0 mm in diameter and are set 2.0-5.0 mm apart. Some fragments have unperforated sections which represent the rim area. The metal is about 2.0 mm thick.

Artifacts Recovered from Disturbed Fill

In addition to the artifacts described by Benson (1967), those mentioned below were also recovered from the disturbed portion of the mound. In the descriptions of glass beads, colors are designated using the names and color codes in the Color Harmony Manual (Container Corporation of America 1958), followed by the equivalent code in the Munsell color notation system (Munsell Color Company 1960). This is done to facilitate future intersite comparisons of bead assemblages.

Ceramics

Pasco Complicated Stamped (1 specimen; Fig. 1, f). Paste is heavily tempered with crushed limestone and fine sand. Surface bears a design consisting of at least five raised, concentric circles with a raised dot in the center. The sherd is 7.0 mm thick. Ocklawaha Incised (1 specimen; Fig. 1, g). A thick (12.0mm.) sherd of soft St. Johns type paste. The exterior surface exhibits several bold incised lines and remnants of red paint. Papy's Bayou Punctated (1 specimen; Fig. 1, h). The paste is soft and temperless. Decoration consists of a shallow, linear punctate design. Sherd thickness is 4.0 mm. Indian Pass Incised (?) (1 specimen; Fig. 1, i). The paste is hard and tempered with fine sand. The sherd is 6.5 mm thick. Unclassified sand-tempered incised (3 specimens; Fig. 1, j-k).

Three specimens of what appear to be miniature vessels were recovered. One specimen, a Belle Glade Plain simple bowl (Fig. 1, d), was totally reconstructed. The lip is 8.0-12.0 mm thick. It is flattened and slopes down toward the interior. The bottom is rounded and has a neatly made, circular kill-hole. The bowl is 3.5 cm high and has a diameter of 6.6 cm. An even smaller simple bowl (Fig. 2, d) is made of St. Johns Plain paste. This vessel is fragmentary, but appears to have been ca. 1.7 cm high and ca. 3.4 cm in diameter.

The third specimen is a rim fragment from a Sarasota Incised vessel (Fig. 2, e). The paste is relatively soft and temperless. The lip is round and 4.0 mm thick. A portion of a horizontal projection is present on the rim just

below the lip and may be a handle lug. Decoration consists of down-pointing, finely incised, punctate-filled triangles which begin at the middle of the lip and extend down onto the exterior surface of the rim. The diameter of this vessel is estimated to have been ca. 4.6 cm. Height could not be determined.

Drawn Glass Beads

Tubular, decorated, round cross-section (1 specimen; Fig. 2, h). Translucent deep blue (13 1/2 pc; 5PB 3/9) core with three opaque, vertical, shadow blue (14 ie; 2.5PB 5/4) stripes with a redwood (6 le; 7.5R 4/6) stripe in the center of each. Ends of the bead are unfinished (unaltered breaks). Length: 12.0 mm (fragmentary); diameter: 4.0 mm; perforation: 1.5 mm.

Tubular, decorated, round cross-section (1 specimen; Fig. 2, i). Translucent turquoise green (20 nc; 5BG 5/8) core with three opaque, vertical, redwood (6 le; 7.5R 5/6) stripes with a narrow white stripe running down the center of each. Ends of the bead are unfinished. Length: 5.7 mm (fragmentary); diameter: 6.0 mm; perforation: 2.0 mm.

Tubular, brite navy (13 pg; 7.5PB 3/4), square cross-section (6 specimens; Fig. 2, j). Transparent glass. Corners on four specimens have been ground down. Other beads have sharp corners. Ends are unfinished. Length: 4.0-7.0 mm; diameter: 2.4-3.0 mm; perforation: 1.2-1.5 mm.

Tubular, clear, round cross-section (1 specimen; Fig. 2, k). This bead consists of a very short section of glass tubing with rounded ends. Length: 3.4 mm; diameter: 2.2 mm; perforation: 1.0 mm.

Hexagonal, scarlet (7pa; 5R 4/14) (2 specimens; Fig. 2, l). Transparent glass. Ends are formed by unaltered breaks. The unusual thing about these beads, considering their size, is that the corners on both specimens have been ground. Length: 1.4-1.5 mm; diameter: 1.8-2.0 mm; perforation: 0.7 mm.

Hexagonal, brite green (22 nc; 2.5G 5/9) (1 specimen; Fig. 2, m). Transparent glass. The ends of the bead are unfinished and the corners have been ground. Length: 1.5 mm; diameter: 2.1 mm; perforation: 0.8 mm.

Oblate to ovate spheroidal, decorated (6 specimens; Fig. 2, n). Transparent brite navy (13 pg; 7.5PB 3/4) core decorated with four straight, opaque white stripes. Length: 3.0-8.2 mm; diameter: 5.6-7.8 mm; perforation: 1.4-1.9 mm.

Spheroidal, decorated (1 specimen; Fig. 2, o). Transparent brite navy (13 pg; 7.5PB 3/4) core decorated with three redwood (6 le; 7.5R 4/6) and three white stripes that appear alternately around the bead. Length: 4.9 mm; diameter: 5.0 mm; perforation: 1.5 mm.

Oblate to ovate spheroidal, brite navy (13 pg; 7.5PB 3/4) (4 specimens; Fig. 2, p). Transparent glass. Each bead exhibits several irregular, randomly applied, cut facets. Length: 2.8-4.0 mm; diameter: 3.3-3.6 mm; perforation: 1.0-1.3 mm.

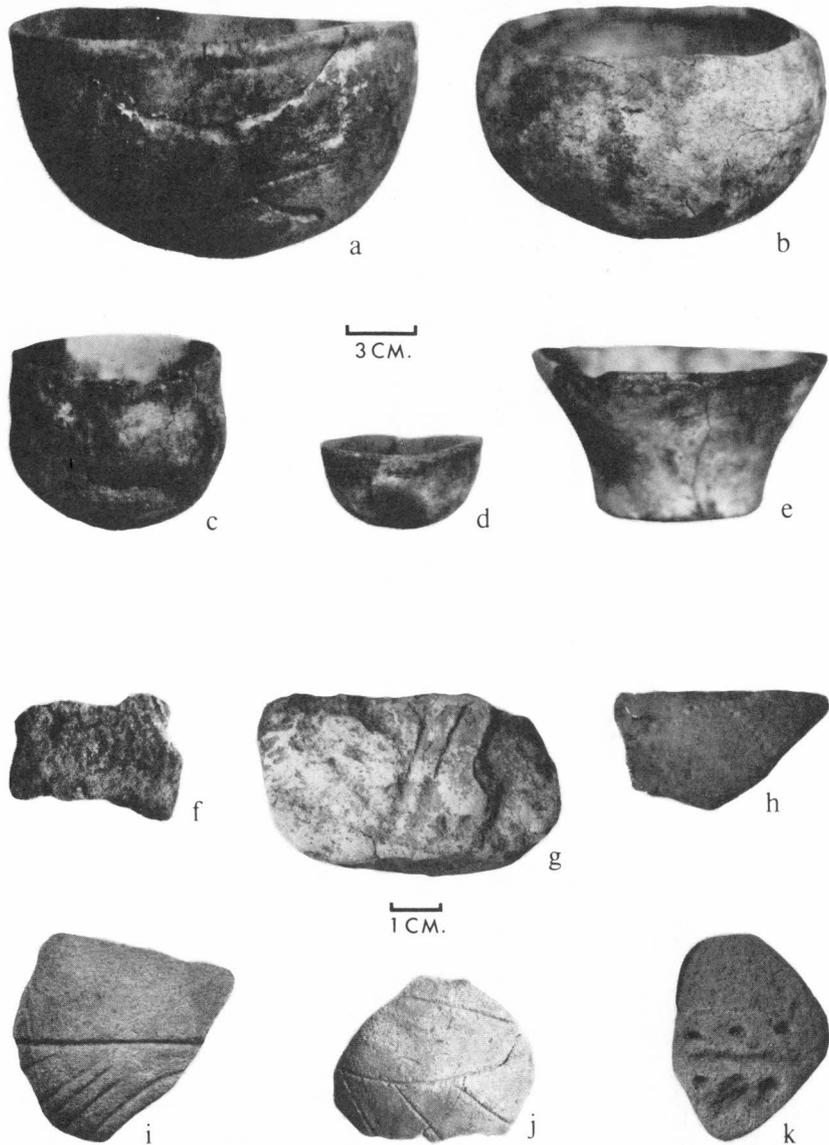


Fig. 1. Ceramics from the Philip Mound

a-d, Belle Galde Plain; e, St. Johns Plain; f, Pasco Complicated Stamped; g, Ocklawaha Incised; h, Papsy Bayou Punctated; i, Indian Pass Incised(?); j-k, unclassified sand-tempered.

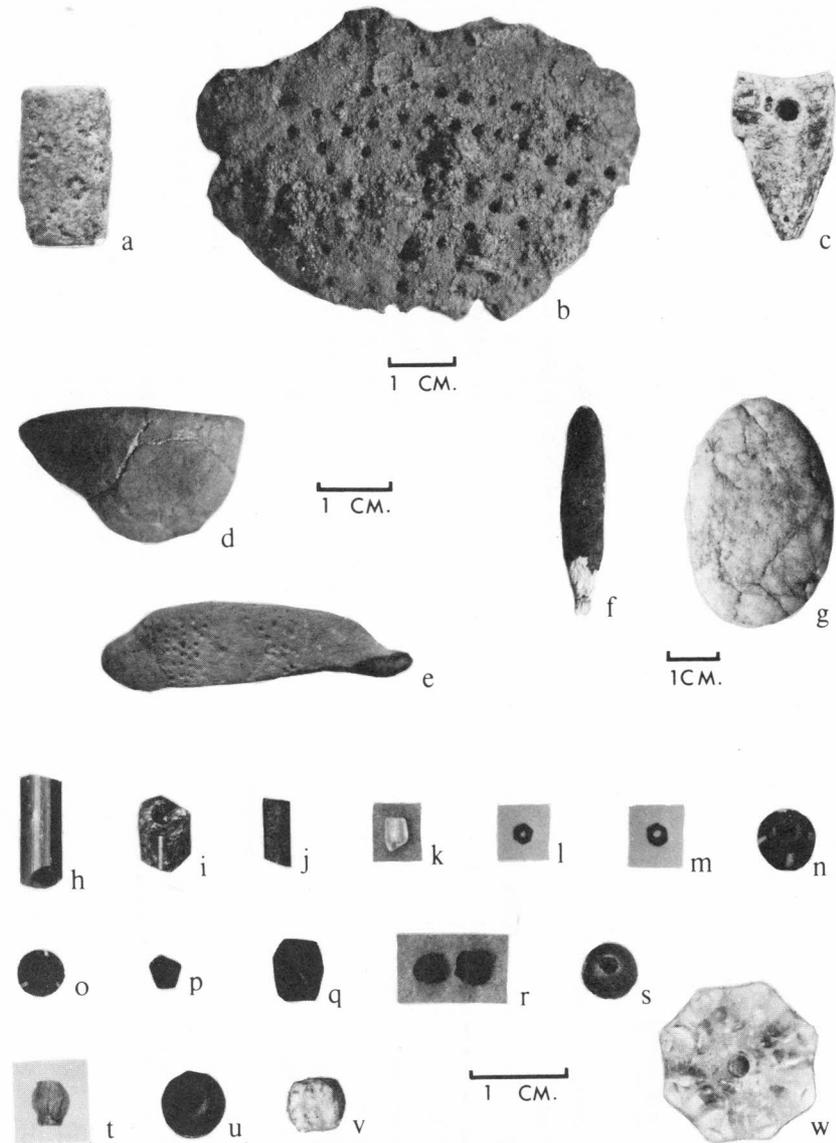


Fig. 2. Miniature vessels and other artifacts

a, coral bead; b, iron colander; c, imitation shark tooth pendant; e, Sarasota Incised; f, shell pendant; g, quartzite; h-v, glass beads; w, cut crystal bead. d, St. Johns Plain

Wound Glass Beads

Elongate, rose wine (8 le; 1ORP 4/6), faceted (1 specimen; Fig. 2, q). Transparent glass. Eight pentagonal, pressed facets cover the surface. These were applied with a small paddle while the glass was still viscid. Ends are square. Length: 6.4 mm; diameter: 5.2 mm; perforation: 1.9 mm.

Triangular to square, rose wine (8 le; 1ORP 4/6) (4 specimens; Fig. 2, r). Transparent glass. These specimens have a triangular (3) or a square (1) cross-section. They were shaped by pressing the surface with a small paddle while the glass was still soft. Length: 2.7-3.7 mm; diameter: 3.0-3.6 mm; perforation: 1.3-1.5 mm.

Oblate spheroidal, gilded (4 specimens; Fig. 2, s). Transparent cinnamon (3 le; 1OYR 6/5) to lite gold (2 ie; 2.5Y 7/7) glass core covered with a thin gilt layer which is covered by a very thin layer of clear glass. Length: 4.2-5.6 mm; diameter: 5.2-6.1 mm; perforation: 1.2-1.6 mm.

Blown Glass Bead

Globular, very pale blue (15 ca; 10B 9/3) (1 specimen; Fig. 2, t). Transparent glass. This bead was made by blowing a bubble in a section of drawn glass tubing. Ends of the bead flare out very slightly and exhibit unaltered breaks. This suggests that this specimen may be a portion of a segmented bead. Length: 3.8 mm; diameter: 3.7 mm; perforation: 1.8 mm.

Glass Beads of Uncertain Manufacture

Oblate spheroidal, decorated (1 specimen; Fig. 2, u). Opaque black bead with a bold white line encircling the equator. Outline of the bead is very symmetrical. Specimen is wound and/or mold pressed. Length: 5.9 mm; diameter: 6.6 mm; perforation: 1.4 mm.

Oblate spheroidal, decorated (1 specimen; Fig. 2, v). This bead is barrel-shaped and very heavily patinated. The original color could not be determined. Five vertical ribs, three of which exhibit parallel, diagonal grooves, decorate the bead. The glass exhibits swirls that are at right angles to the axis of the perforation, suggesting that the bead was wound and then pressed in a mold. Length: 5.2 mm; diameter: 5.8 mm; perforation: 1.0 mm.

Cut Crystal Beads

Oblate spheroidal, faceted (1 specimen). There are 32 facets on the surface. Those encircling the perforation are irregular pentagons; the 24 facets encircling the diameter are diamond-shaped. This bead is very battered. Length: 12.2 mm; diameter: 14.0 mm; perforation: 2.4 mm.

Oblate spheroidal, faceted (1 specimen; Fig. 2, w). This specimen is decorated with eight ovate facets with slightly concave surfaces that span the en-

tire length of the bead. The ridges at the juncture of adjacent facets bear two small oval facets which are set about 3.0 mm. apart and encircle the equator of the bead. The ends of the bead are flat. This specimen also exhibits signs of wear. Length: 12.0 mm; diameter: 15.5 mm; perforation: 2.2 mm.

Miscellaneous Beads

Cylindrical Coral Bead (Fig. 2, a). This unusual item was made from a section of branch coral, probably Oculina sp. (ivory coral). The surface has been smoothed by grinding down the protruding edges of the corallites. The perforation is hourglass-shaped. Length: 23.0 mm; diameter: 14.0 mm.

Large Shell Beads (5 specimens). Shapes include oblate-spheroidal (length: 10.0 mm; diameter: 12.0 mm); flat disc (length: 5.0-6.0 mm; diameter: 10.0-12.0 mm); barrel-shaped (length: 8.0 mm; diameter: 9.0 mm); and tubular with a trianguloid cross-section (length: 12.0 mm; diameter: 8.5 mm).

Lead Bead (1 specimen). What appears to have been a large cylindrical lead bead is represented by a very badly decomposed fragment.

Miscellaneous

Imitation Shark Tooth Pendant (Fig. 2, c). This artifact was manufactured from shell. It is triangular and has a 3.0 mm wide perforation in the center of the slightly concave base. The other edges are sharp and slightly convex. Length: 27.0 mm; width: 17.0 mm; thickness: 3.0 mm.

Shell Pendant (Fig. 2, f). This specimen is elongate-ovate in outline. The suspension end is eroded but appears to have had a transverse groove. Length: 41.0 mm; maximum width: 9.0 mm; thickness: 7.0 mm.

Quartzite Pebbles (Fig. 2, g). Four small, smooth quartzite pebbles may have served as polishing or smoothing stones.

Red Ocher. This material is represented by six small pieces of ocher-cemented sand.

Discussion and Conclusions

While the artifacts described on the previous pages do not alter the date (ca. 1600-1700, or slightly earlier) assigned to the Philip Mound by Benson (1967:130-131), some of the ceramics do substantiate a pre-1600 origin for the site.

Papys Bayou Punctated pottery is diagnostic of both Weeden Island periods, especially the second (Willey 1949:443). However, it has been found to occur in an Englewood, as well as a Safety Harbor context (Willey 1949:132, 153). In the latter instance, it was considered an heirloom. The Indian Pass

Incised sherd, if correctly identified, can be assigned to the Weeden Island II period (Willey 1949:427) and the Pasco Complicated Stamped sherd can be attributed to a late Weeden Island II period (R. P. Bullen: personal communication). The miniature vessels may also relate to the Weeden Island II period since they are not, to the author's knowledge, an acknowledged trait of either the Englewood or Safety Harbor burial complex.

25 The Ocklawaha Incised sherd presents a problem. Goggin (1952:103) attributes this type to his St. Johns Ia, early, period which dates around 150 B.C. to A.D. This suggests that perhaps the sherd is mis-identified or, less likely, that this type has a much greater temporal range than was previously believed.

Since the ceramics mentioned above were not found in situ at the Philip Mound, it is not certain whether they represent a late Weeden Island II occupation or are heirlooms. However, their extreme scarcity suggests that they fall into the latter category. The cut crystal beads may also be heirlooms, since their battered condition suggests a long period of use. Because there is no way to determine the longevity of heirloom pieces, in this case at least, it cannot be stated with certainty when the mound was first utilized. However, if the midpoint in the transition from Weeden Island to Safety Harbor occurred ca. 1500, as proposed by Sears (1967:70), then a pre-1600 origin for the site is assured by the Weeden Island II period ceramics. It does not seem very likely that heirloom pieces used in Safety Harbor period mortuary rites and various other community ceremonies (Sears 1967:69) would have remained unused or unbroken until the 17th century.

The ceremonial deposit, on the other hand, can definitely be attributed to the Safety Harbor period. The Pinellas Incised pottery found in the deposit is a key type for this period (Willey 1949:475). The St. Johns Plain, St. Johns Check Stamped, and Belle Glade Plain pottery forming the remainder of the deposit also occurs in this context.

Extensive trade with various other cultural areas is indicated by the ceramics: St. Johns series from the Northern St. Johns Region; Papys Bayou Punctated, Pinellas Incised, Pasco Complicated Stamped, and Sarasota Incised from the Central Gulf Coast/Manatee Region; and Belle Glade Plain from the Glades Area. The coral and marine shell artifacts, of course, denote trade with inhabitants of the Atlantic and/or Gulf Coasts.

The quartzite pebbles are also trade items. Although this stone is not considered indigenous to Florida, R. O. Vernon, Chief of the Florida Bureau of Geology, stated (personal communication) that quartzite pebbles do occur along the highland sections and in the sand mines just west of Lake Okeechobee. The pebbles may have been collected from these deposits. The other nearest source of quartzite is Georgia. Therefore, these pebbles originated either from

the Glades Area or from the area to the north of present-day Florida.

Little, if anything, is known about the artifact assemblages and burial customs at the Philip Mound. Unfortunately, due to the destruction of the mound, this information will never be forthcoming.

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