A CADDOAN-STYLE SHERD FROM MARION COUNTY, KANSAS: SURPRISING RESULTS FROM COMPOSITIONAL ANALYSIS

by Harold Reed (deceased), Salina, Kansas
Robert J. Hoard, Kansas State Historical Society
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This is a report on a sherd that exhibits characteristics common to pottery from the Caddoan region, recovered from a Great Bend aspect site (14MN306) in Marion County, Kansas. The authors used neutron activation analysis to determine the geographic source of the sherd but were surprised to find that it does not compare to pottery from the Caddoan region or any other region from which sherds have been analyzed by this method. It is recommended that local pottery be analyzed to determine if the Caddoan-style sherd is a copy produced by the Great Bend inhabitants of 14MN306.

ADDENDUM TO AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GREAT BEND ASPECT-WICHITA ARCHEOLOGY AND ETHNOHISTORY

by Marlin F. Hawley, Wisconsin Historical Society

This addendum to An Annotated Bibliography of Great Bend Aspect-Wichita Archeology and Ethnohistory, published in The Kansas Anthropologist (24:107-145) in 2003, includes items that were either overlooked or published after it went to press.

A DEMONSTRATION OF PRIMITIVE ARCHERY FOR THE 2006 KATP FIELD SCHOOL

by Clint Thomas

A recent demonstration of stone-tipped arrows fired from handmade bows—equipment similar to that used by prehistoric American Indians—showed that stone projectile points are both effective and durable and that primitive handmade bows produce adequate killing power. While heat treatment of stone points may be an important factor in their manufacture, point size is clearly the most important characteristic overall. Large points do not have the penetrating power of small points, while medium-sized points penetrate well and could inflict significant damage to the animal target.

A PHASE II ARCHEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY OF APPROXIMATELY 600 ACRES ALONG HOLLAND CREEK, DICKINSON COUNTY, KANSAS

by Christopher L. Beemer, Kansas State University
Between August 15 and October 20 of 2003, the author conducted a pedestrian archeological survey on Holland Creek near Abilene in Dickinson County, Kansas, as part of an independent research project through Kansas State University. Nineteen previously unrecorded prehistoric sites were identified, and five previously recorded sites were revisited. Of the 24 sites visited, 1 was recorded as Woodland, 1 as Late Prehistoric, 4 as unknown ceramic, and 18 as unknown age.

ESTABLISHING ARCHEOLOGY AT THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ROSCOE HALL WILMETH, 1957-1960

by Marlin F. Hawley, Wisconsin Historical Society

While archeological pursuits as part of the mission of the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) extend back into the 1880s, it was not until 1957 that the institution employed a professionally trained archeologist on its staff. From 1957 to mid-1960 Roscoe Hall Wilmeth, hired as an assistant museum curator, initiated archeological investigations. During his three and one-half years at the KSHS, he constructed museum displays on the archeology and ethnology of Kansas’ Native American societies; made contact with numerous amateurs and collectors; began an archeological site inventory; organized old, donated collections; and conducted the Society’s first professional surveys and excavations, some of which were funded by the National Park Service. This paper reviews Wilmeth’s activities at the KSHS using various published and unpublished sources, the latter including his personal journals and other information supplied by his widow, Verna Wilmeth, and correspondence and documents at the KSHS and the Smithsonian Institution.

CERAMIC PERIOD COMPONENTS AT THE CLAUSSEN SITE, 14WB322, WABAUNSEE COUNTY, KANSAS

by Donna C. Roper, Kansas State University

The 2003 Kansas Archeology Training Program field school directed part of its effort to Ceramic period components at the Claussen site (14WB322) in Wabaunsee County. This site lies along Mill Creek in a valley that has received little systematic archeological attention since J. V. Brower’s activities over a century ago. The studied components are buried in a point bar deposit and were recognized by flakes, rock, shell, and charcoal exposed in the eroding cutbank. As such exposures afford a very meager glimpse of an occupation, the research design emphasized testing two occupation areas to determine their size and overall nature. Only a small amount of material was recovered from the northern of the two areas. The occupation was during the Early or Middle Ceramic period and represents a small temporary camp, but little was learned about it. A larger excavation into the southern area exposed a pair of surface hearths with associated scatters of chipped stone debitage, pottery, and mussel shell, plus several tools and some animal bone. This occupation represents a Middle Ceramic-period short-term encampment. Its closest material culture similarities are to Smoky Hill phase sites in the Blue River valley. Rapid
burial after the occupation meant that the occupation surface suffered little adverse effect after abandonment. Thus, the activity structure and spatial organization are exceptionally clear.