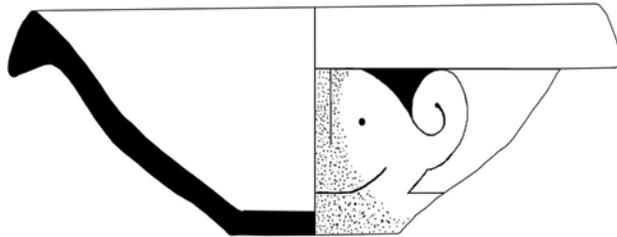


Preliminary Ceramic Analysis of the pre-Columbian site of Seaview, Barbuda.

Dr. Benoit Berard (1), Norie Manigault (2)



**BARBUDA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER**

1 - Universite des Antilles et de la Guyane, Martinique, France

2 – The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

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Contact: benoit.berard@martinique.univ-ag.fr

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Introduction

The Seaview pre-Columbian site (BAA 016) has been excavated by the team of the *Barbuda historical ecology project* in January 2008 and January 2009. In January 2010 a cooperation have been initiated with Dr. Benoit Bérard from the *Université des Antilles et de la Guyane* concerning the analysis of the ceramic remains founded during the excavation. This chapter present the results of the preliminary analysis realized by Dr. Benoit Bérard and Norie Manigault with the inestimable help of Dr. Reginal Murphy and Nicki Murphy between the 16th and the 18th of January.

Methodology

The methodology used for this analysis, is the one put in action by Dr. Benoit Bérard for the analysis of the early cedrosan saladoid collections from Martinique and Dominica (Bérard, 2004 and Bérard, 2008). Each shard larger than 2 cm has been counted, weighed and a measurement of his thickness has been taken. After, each piece has been considered as one or several morpho-decorative units and all those units have been counted in a specific chart (Table 1) designed to analyze the association rules of each morphological elements (Table 2) of the vessels with one or an association of decoration techniques. This analysis has been conducted distinctively for each excavation area and each stratigraphic unit.

The objectives are: first to obtain a good level of cultural characterization of the sample, second to try to identify some cultural standards concerning the decoration techniques use, the design location on the vessel and the decoration techniques association. This method has been already applied on archaeological collection from Martinique, Dominica and Guadeloupe.

Seaview site BAA016-Total										Griddles		Cylinder		Additions						
		Rim			Base			Neck	Body	Rim	Body	Body	Rim/base	Handles				TOTAL		
		Simple	Thickened	Angular	Flat	Pedestal	Legs							Strap	Ear	tenon	A & B		Tube	
	No decoration	66		4	58	1		2	352	15	73		1	5		1		1	578	
Painting	Monochromatic	3	6	5	1				22							1	1		38	
	Bichromatic	2	2						25										29	
	Trichromatic								6										6	
Incision	Incised	3	2	1	2				18			2							28	
	Incised+ monochr.	3	1						3						1				8	
	Incised+ bichr.		1																1	
	Incised+trichr.								2										2	
	Zoned-Incised	1							2										3	
	Z-I+Monochr.								2										2	
	Z-I+bichr.																		0	
Z-I+trichr.																		0		
Modeling	Modeled	1	1	1															3	
	Modeled+monochr.																		0	
	Modeled+bichr.																		0	
	Modeled+trichr.																		0	
	Modeled incised	2	2																4	
	Modeled+mono+inc		1	3															4	
	Modeled+bichr.inc																		0	
	Modeled+trichr.inc																		0	
	Adomos																		0	
	adomos+monochr.																		0	
adomos+bichr.																		0		
adomos+trichr.																		0		
TOTAL		81	16	14	61	1	0	2	432	15	73	2	1	5	1	2	1	1	706	

Pieces total
632

Total Weight
14151

Decoration Total
128

Table 1: Seaview site ceramic. Counting chart.

The objective of the research conducted by Dr Benoit Bérard on the Lesser Antilles early cedrosan saladoid occupation is by this way to divide this large ensemble in small cultural groups in a review process of the I. Rouse "complex" concept (Rouse, 1992 for the last version).

Results

The collection we have analyzed correspond to the major part of the ceramic remains founded during the *Barbuda historical ecology project* excavation¹. 632 shards corresponding to a total weigh of 14151 grams composed it (average weigh by piece 22 grams). Therefore, the collection is not too fragmented and the pieces surface is not too eroded. In general the Seaview site ceramic remains present a good conservation state. Moreover for all this material we have very good spatial and stratigraphic context data. Therefore, this collection is perfectly able to support a precise analysis. However, if each excavation area and stratigraphic unit has been analyzed separately, the quantity of ceramic remains associated with each specific excavation area and stratigraphic unit is too small to be statistically significant. Thus, we will present here a global analysis of the ceramic remains.

The ceramic remains founded during the *Barbuda historical ecology project* Seaview site excavation correspond to well fired, thin wall (average thickness: 8 mm), hand coiled vessels. At the exception of the thicker shard (generally griddle and cylinder (incense burner) vessel fragments) the essential part of the pieces is fine grain tempered.

The collection is dominated by simple rims (73 % of the rims) followed by the thickened rims (14%) and the angular rims (13%). For the bases, the flat bases are highly predominant (61 pieces) but pedestals are also present (1 piece). No leg has been identified. Concerning the additions, the strap handles are the more frequent (5 pieces) we have also identified tenons (2 pieces) and ear handles (1 piece). Two other addition types are represented by one piece in the Seaview site ceramic. The first one corresponds to an inhalation tube. The second one corresponds to a tenon with a very small perforation located on the lower part of a bowl (Figure

¹ We haven't been able to analyze the large collection collected in surface by few non-professional archaeologists and some of the more characteristic pieces from the excavation were not available during our short stay in Barbuda.

1) this type of addition very common in the early saladoid collection of Antigua has also been observed in the Hope Estate site (Saint Martin) early saladoid component (Bonnissent, 2008). We have decided to name those pieces A & B handles.



Figure 1 : Bowl fragment with a A & B handle, Seaview site, surface.

Two specific vessel shapes easy to identify have been counted during our analysis, the griddles and the cylinders. The griddles shards represent 12,5 % of all the pieces and the cylinder shards only 0,4 %.

The ceramic from Seaview is highly decorated. The decorated pieces represent 18% of the total. The principal decoration technique is painting. This technique is present on 70% of the decorated pieces, alone (57% of the decorated pieces), associated with incision (10%) or associated with incision and modeling (3%). The Seaview potters have only used three colors: red, white and black. The red color can be used alone (30% of the decorated pieces), associated with white (22% of the decorated pieces) to create white on red and white and red designs or with white and black (5%). No pieces with only white or black painting or even red and black or white and black

design have been observed. There is only one exception to this; the internal surface of some of the vessel is covered by a black slip.

There is incision on 41% of the decorated pieces, alone (25%), associated with painting (10%), with modeling (3%) or with painting and modeling (3%). The specific zoned-incised designs (crosshatched or not) represent 4% of the incised pieces.

Nine percent of the pieces have a modeled design. The modeling decoration technique is used alone (3%) or in association with incision (3%) or painting and incision (3%).

Those decorations occur preferentially on the rims (for example all the thickened rims are decorated) and at a lower level on the additions. If the decorated body shards are essentially painted, all the designs including modeled elements are located on rim shards.

Discussion

Two sub-series, the cedrosan saladoid and the huecan saladoid, are associated to the early ceramic occupation of the West Indies. If early cedrosan saladoid sites have been identified in the major part of the West Indies, huecan saladoid sites have been, for the moment, only described in Puerto Rico, Vieques, St. Martin, Guadeloupe and Marie-Galante. The Seaview site ceramic collection is clearly associated with the early phase of the cedrosan saladoid sub-serie. None of the ceramic remains we have analyzed can be associated with contemporaneous huecan saladoid sub-serie.

If all the material is linked at the cedrosan saladoid sub-serie and essentially to his early phase, few pieces founded in surface and one from the area 2 (SU 856) seems to be younger, related with the middle-late cedrosan saladoid. The presence of those few pieces may be related to the proximity of the multi-component Indian town trail site, which clearly has a middle late cedrosan saladoid component.

Excepting those few pieces all the Seaview site ceramic remains are characteristic of the early cedrosan saladoid. A large part of the shard can be associated to one of the already defined complete vessel types (Bérard, 2004 and 2005): circular and oval careenated cooking pots (figure 2), the different types of bowls (figure 3 & 4), the three strap handles large bottles etc...

Nevertheless, we have been able to observe some light differences between the Seaview site ceramic and the ceramic from the early cedrosan saladoid sites of Martinique and Dominica. The

more important one is the presence of the A & B handles. On an other side, the Seaview site ceramic seems to be very close to the one from Royall's site in Antigua (some other similitude with Hope Estate site in St. Martin have been also identified).

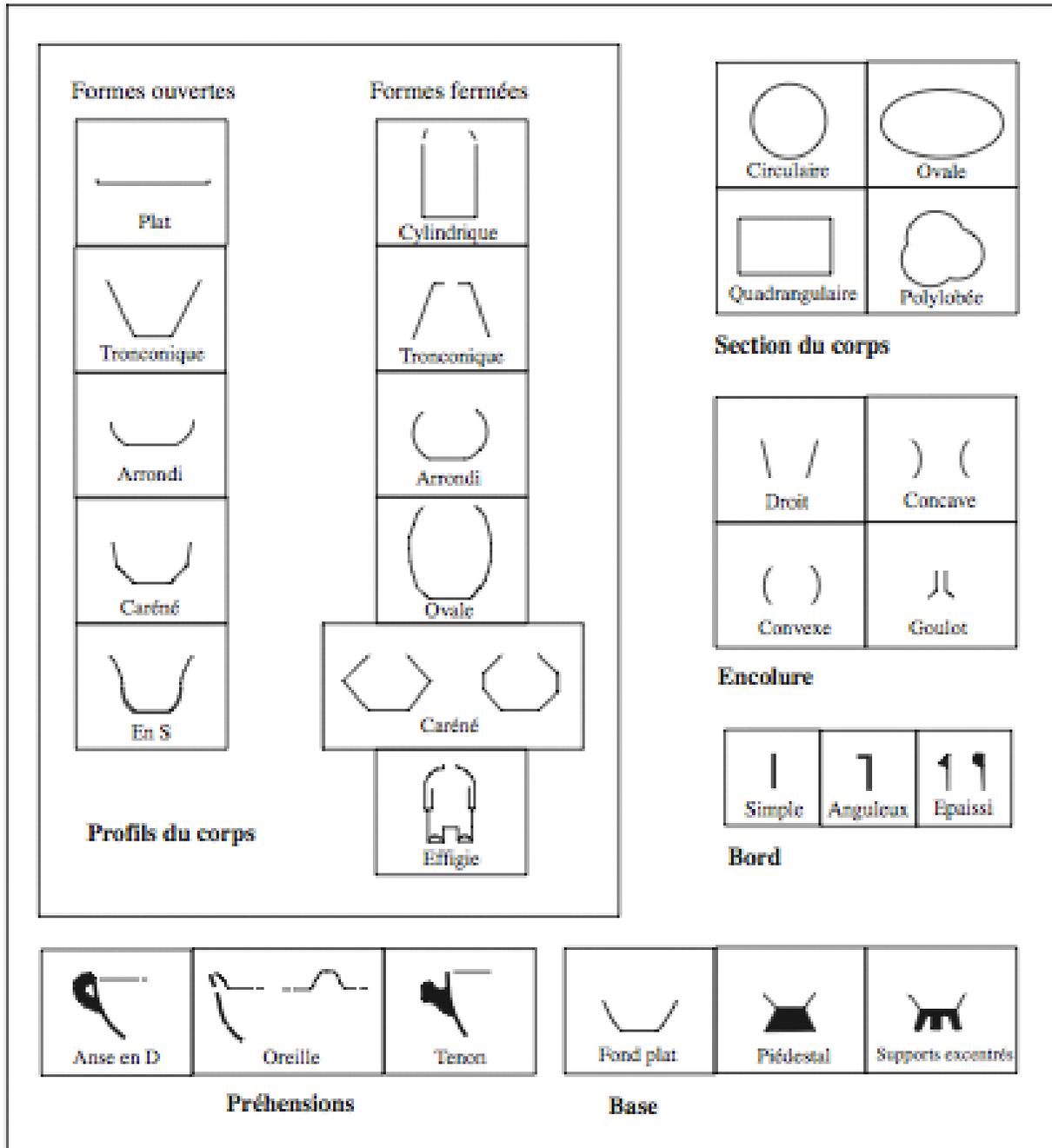


Table 2: Morphological elements typology
(from B. Bérard, 2004)

Perspectives

The Seaview site ceramic preliminary analysis we have realized is far to be exhaustive. The Seaview site ceramic will be exploited in different perspectives in the future. First of all, Norie Manigault who is starting a Ph-D about the Barbuda pre-Columbian ceramic, will analyze it in a diachronic perspective comparing it the ceramic remains founded in other Barbuda sites. On an other hand, Seaview is, for the moment, the only early ceramic site identified in Barbuda and more than that it is located in a very original environment in comparisons with the others contemporaneous sites. Thus, it seems really interesting to develop the studies to better understand the position of Seaview site in the early cedrosan saladoid occupation of the West Indies in general and of the Leeward Islands more specifically. Following the same idea it will be essential to compare with lot of precision the Seaview site ceramic with the collections related with early cedrosan saladoid sites in Antigua.

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Tables

Table 1: Seaview site ceramic counting chart.

Table 2: Morphological elements typology.

Illustrations

Figure 1: Bowl fragment with a A & B handle, Seaview site, Surface.

Figure 2: Seaview site, restricted vessels (the small scale complete pieces are from Martinique early cedrosan saladoid sites).

Figure 3: Seaview site, bowls (the small scale complete pieces are from Martinique early cedrosan saladoid sites).

Figure 4: Seaview site, bowls (the small scale complete pieces are from Martinique early cedrosan saladoid sites).