A STEWARD’S ILLUSTRATED KEY
TO
HISTORIC CERAMICS

REVISED EDITION, 2006*

*This guide is a revision of “A Steward’s Key to Historic Ceramics,” prepared by Dan Potter, Roland Pantermuehl and Anne Fox, in support of the 1997 Texas Archeological Stewardship Network workshop training segment entitled “Understanding Historic Period Artifact Assemblages,” conducted by Anne Fox, Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio
**Unnamed Early 19th century Majolicas**  
(Mexico/New Spain origin)  
Age Range: 1790 - 1830

**Guanajuato Polychrome**  
Age Range: 1830+

The colors are the key, especially the orange

**San Augustine Blue-on-white**  
Age Range: 1700 - 1730

Has pale blue loops on the reverse side.

**Tumacacori II Polychrome**  
Age Range: 1810 - 1840

**Monterey Polychrome**  
Age Range: 1790 - 1830

Occurs late at the San Antonio missions

**Tumacacori III Polychrome**  
Age Range: 1830 - 1860
**Faience Ware** (French origin) 
Age Range: 18th century

**Puebla Blue-on-White** (Mexico/New Spain origin) 
Age Range: 1675 - 1800; Most common Spanish Colonial type in Texas.

**San Elizario** (Mexico/New Spain origin) 
Age Range: 1750 - 1800
Brown/black accents on Puebla Blue-on-White

**San Luis Polychrome** 
Age Range: 1666 - 1720

**Puebla Blue-on-White II** Late 18th century

**Huejotzingo** 18th century

**Puebla Blue White-cup** Early 18th century

**Puebla Blue-on-White** Early 18th century (possible Mexico City origin)

**Puebla Polychrome** 
Age Range: 1675 - 1725
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Red Pattern-Burnished Ware</strong></th>
<th><strong>Unglazed Wheel-thrown Ware</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age Range: 18th century</td>
<td>Age Range: 18th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Also occasionally in black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large water jars,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>painted design</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Goliad Ware**                |                               |
| Age Range: 18th century        |                               |
| Bone-tempered, 18th century    |                               |
| equivalent of Leon Plain       |                               |
|                               |                               |

| **Guadalajara/Tonalá Burnished** |                               |
| Age Range: 1650 - present (still made today) |                               |
| Plain red slip or red, yellow, and black painted designs |                               |
**Lead Glaze Ware** (Spanish/Mexican origin)
Age Range: 18th century - present

- Guadalajara with Red body
- Lead/clear glaze brown/yellow body (possibly El Morro type)

**Galera Polychrome**
Age Range: 1722+
Clear glaze on orange body; brown, green, cream decoration

**Olive Jar** (Spanish origin)
Age Range: 15th - 19th century
Green glaze on the interior, white slip on the exterior
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Porcelain and White Ware</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asian Porcelain</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range: 1600s to 18th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imported to Acapulco via Manila galleons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hand-painted Whiteware (Decorated Overglaze)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range: East Texas, 1820+; South Texas, 1830+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sprig ware</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flow Blue</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range: 1835 - 1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solid Color”/Fiesta Ware</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range: 1920s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same color on both sides; multiple colors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Edged Ware</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range: 1780 - 1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sponge ware</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sponge stamped ware, post-Civil War</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decal Ware or “Decalcomania”</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range: 1900+ in Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorated over glaze.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Transfer Print**
Age Range: English origin, early 19th century to ca. 1850; English/U. S. origin, 1850s to present

**Undecorated White Ware/Ironstone** (English/ U. S. origin)
Age Range: 19th century
Sites containing only white ware (predominantly ironstone) are post-Civil War

Thinner sherds are usually “white ware,” thicker sherds are probably “ironstone” and date to 1840s - 1930s (still made today)

Maker's mark sometimes can be identified and dated.

**Banded Slip Ware**
Age Range: 1800 - 1850

**Mocha decoration**
This pattern continues to appear into the late 19th century
STONEWARE AND LUSTER WARE

**Rockingham/Bennington Glaze**
(English and U.S. origin)
Age Range: late 19th century

**Luster Ware**
Age Range: 18th century

Black luster
(England; 18th century)
hard, red paste

Copper luster
(England; 19th century)
hard, red paste

Gray/tan paste

**Albany slip**
1850 to 1900

“Ginger beer”
(European origin, possibly Scotland)
1850 to 1900

Salt glaze
1850 to 1900

Albany slip
Alkaline glaze
1850 to 1870

**Storage jar**
(U. S., East Coast)

**Storage jar**
(Texas origin)

**Stoneware bottle**
(German origin)

**Stoneware**
(European and U.S. origin, including Texas)
Age Range: 1850 to present
**Pipes** (European/U.S. origin)
Age Range: 17th-19th century
Same patterns made throughout the U.S.

**Children's Ceramic Assemblage**
Age Range: 19th century
- Clay
- Clay
- Bennington Brown glaze on Stoneware
- "Cobalt" Bennington Blue on stoneware, unglazed
- Stoneware

**Household Items**
Age Range: Late 19th century into 20th century
- Insulator
- Doll parts (arms and legs attached to cloth or leather body)
- Slate pencil
- Writing slate-used by all ages from school children to merchants