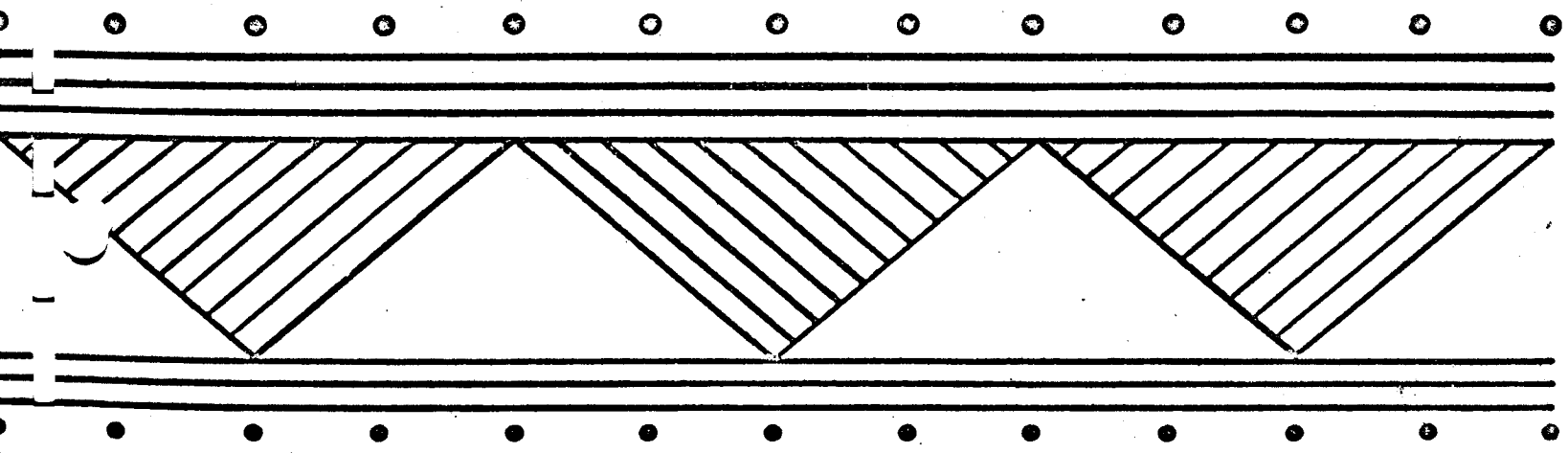


HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 35

MARCH 1971



The Newsletter is published four times per year by the Houston Archeological Society. Contributions of news items, short articles and information of archeological significance should be sent to the Editor - Jan R. Duke, 1706 Oaks Drive, Pasadena, Texas 77502.

#

Officers 1970-71

- Chairman - Jay W. Sharp, 5818 Arboles, Houston, Texas 77035
- Sec.-Treas. - Margie Fullen, 717 Dartmouth Lane, Deer Park, Texas 77536
- Directors - William Caskey
Larry Chrisco
Frank Hole

#

Past and Future Programs

- February - 1971 - A lab session was conducted by Dr. Frank Hole and Mike O'Brien at Rice University. Material recovered from site 41HR82 was examined and discussed.
- March - 1971 - (Tentative) Dr. E. Mott Davis, U. of Texas, will discuss work on a Roman site in Yugoslavia.
- April - 1971 - Plans currently call for an outing at site 41HR82 on the Saturday following our regular meeting night. More details on this later.

Other archeological activities of interest to HAS members are as follows:

- March 12, 1971 - (Stephen F. Austin University, Nacogdoches, Texas.) Texas Academy of Science - 1971 Annual Meeting. This meeting will include presentation of papers on all geographic areas of Texas including one by Lawrence Aten - "A Review and Synthesis of the Archeology of the Upper Texas Coast". This paper should be of particular interest to HAS members.
- March 19, 1971 - (Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas) Field School Seminar. Theme will be "Field Schools for State Archeological Societies". HAS member Dr. Frank Hole will be a participant in the seminar.
- April 17-18, 1971- (Lamar State College, Beaumont, Texas) Conference on the Archeology of the Gulf Coast. This meeting is sponsored by the TASP and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory. Thirteen papers covering many phases of Gulf Coast culture and chronology will be presented. Area relationships from Florida coast to the Rio Grande delta will be examined.
- May 6-8, 1971 - (University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma) Society for American Archeology - 36th Annual Meeting.

June 12-19, 1971 - (Kerrville, Texas). TAS Field School.
(TAS members only).

November 12-14, 1971-(Fort Worth, Texas) TAS Annual Meeting sponsored by
Tarrant Co. Archeological Society.

Looks like 1971 will be a busy year, archeologically speaking!!

#####

Texas State Historical Survey Committee - Archeological Goals for the 70's.

The T.S.H.S.C. lists in their official newsletter The Medallion (Jan.1971)
- the following goals:

(1) Make a comprehensive statewide inventory of the state's nonrenewable archeological resources, including both prehistoric and historic sites. (2) Conduct intensive surveys of restricted areas in different portions of the state to facilitate long-range planning for the development of the archeological resources of these areas. (3) Evaluate archeological sites through testing, excavation, research, and analysis. (4) Disseminate educational and scientific information about Texas' archeological resources through lectures, films, correspondence, and publication of technical reports. (5) Promote preservation and use of archeological resources through submission of detailed recommendations to the Legislature, state and federal agencies, and private foundations and individuals. (6) Cooperate with the Texas Water Development Board, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Texas Highway Department in order that archeological remains on land owned or controlled by those agencies may be preserved or properly salvaged prior to destruction. (7) Cooperate with the Texas Antiquities Committee in administering the Antiquities Code of Texas. (8) Encourage county committees to secure the services of either a competent amateur or a professional archeologist. Compile a list of qualified amateur and professional archeologists from throughout the state and make it available to county committees. (8) Cooperate with the Texas Conservation Foundation by having the executive director of the Survey Committee serve on the foundation board of directors, as set forth by law. The purpose of the foundation shall be to further the conservation of natural, historic, scientific, and educational sites in Texas.

#####

New HAS Members

A "Welcome Aboard" to the following new members:

Mrs. Henry W. Anderson, Mr. W. B. Ainley, Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Colvin, Miss Beth Eubanks, Miss Debbie Jones, Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Key, Mr. F. P. Kokesh, Miss Marianne Mulvaney, Mrs. O. N. Passmore, Jr., Miss Sharon Petzold, Mr. Bryon Sadler, Mrs. H. K. Puckett, Mrs. Carole Ann Rich, Miss Liz Tagge, Dr. & Mrs. J. J. Waller, Jr., Mr. Ken Whanger.

#####

The following article by W. W. Meddley describes some of the work he carried out on a site in southwest - central Arkansas during 1970.

ROSS BREWER SITE #1, 3CL88

W. W. Meddley

Ross Brewer Site #1 (3CL88) is located in southwest-central Arkansas, in Clark County. This is in the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains. The site is in the Lower Ouachita River valley some 10 miles west of the river and about 1 1/2 miles east of Terre Noir Creek on Old Bradshaw Creek. In the immediate area of the site the soil is very black fine-textured clay suitable for raising nearly all farm crops including alfalfa. There are low hills to the east of the site about 1/4 mile away, cleared of timber. The soil on these hills is badly eroded "soapstone" and in the eroded washes can be found numerous sea shells and fossilized shark teeth. Very little vegetation grows here, except cedar which abounds.

On the west side of the site is Old Bradshaw Creek. It appears the creek has wandered considerably over the past as old sloughs are all around the area. The creek is 12 to 15 feet deep and very narrow with very steep banks. It has cut into 3 to 4 feet of soapstone along the bottom and sea shells can be found here also. Just west of the creek and slightly north of the site, Walnut Branch empties into Old Bradshaw. In the fork of these two creeks is another site (3CL98). Southwest of the site is a hill about 30 feet high which joins other hills running for several miles. This hill is covered with hardwood trees, although some of the area has been cleared for pasture land. On this hill are located two more sites.

Terre Noir Creek is a major watershed in Clark County, there being two drainage ditches dug by boat in 1920, one on either side of the creek and paralleling it some 14 miles to assist in draining this fertile farm land. This area is ideal for growing many vegetables and grain...the growing season being about 230 days, the average mean temperature 65°.

There is an abundance of game in the area, including deer, bear, turkey, squirrel, rabbit (both cotton tail and swamp rabbit), opossum, raccoon, armadillo, fox, wolf, bobcat, and puma. In the early days, buffalo were plentiful. The year round creeks provided fish of several varieties. The surrounding hills would have provided the aborigines with black berries, dew berries, mulberries, elder berries, pawpaw, may-pop, black haw, red haw, melons, wild rice, oats and also nuts and acorns of all kinds. It is no wonder the aborigines chose this area in which to live.

On June 16, 1970, Kim Curry, of the Archeological Survey and I visited Ross Brewer Site #1, and surface collected, finding several cores and flaking debris. Since it had recently been planted in soy beans and there had been no rain since planting, it was very difficult to find anything.

That night I called Mr. Brewer and got his permission to excavate a test pit on the site, but didn't get to excavate where I thought would be best, that being newly planted. The place decided on was the highest point on the site. Only a small amount of material had been collected on the surface on this high point in several visits to the site. The test pit was located on the northernmost end of the site between the end of the rows and the section line fence.

My two sons, Ray, age 11, and Randy, age 13, and myself, despite the 100° temperature, laid off a 5 foot grid, North and South, 12 feet south of the section line fence and 23 feet west of the gate entering the field. We called the elevation at corner N-00, 100.0 feet. We started to excavate the test pit in 6" levels, screening the dirt through 1/4" screen. Starting from the first

shovel of dirt, in Level 1 (100.0' to 99.5'), we began finding evidence of a previous occupation. The soil was a light tan and fine in texture. The low zone was very shallow in this turn-row area. We found a few percussion flakes of flint and chert, as well as a lot of pressure flakes, cores, and broken stream pebbles. In Level 1 we found four potsherds, one of which was decorated with incised lines running parallel with the top of the vessel. We found one Gary-like dart point.

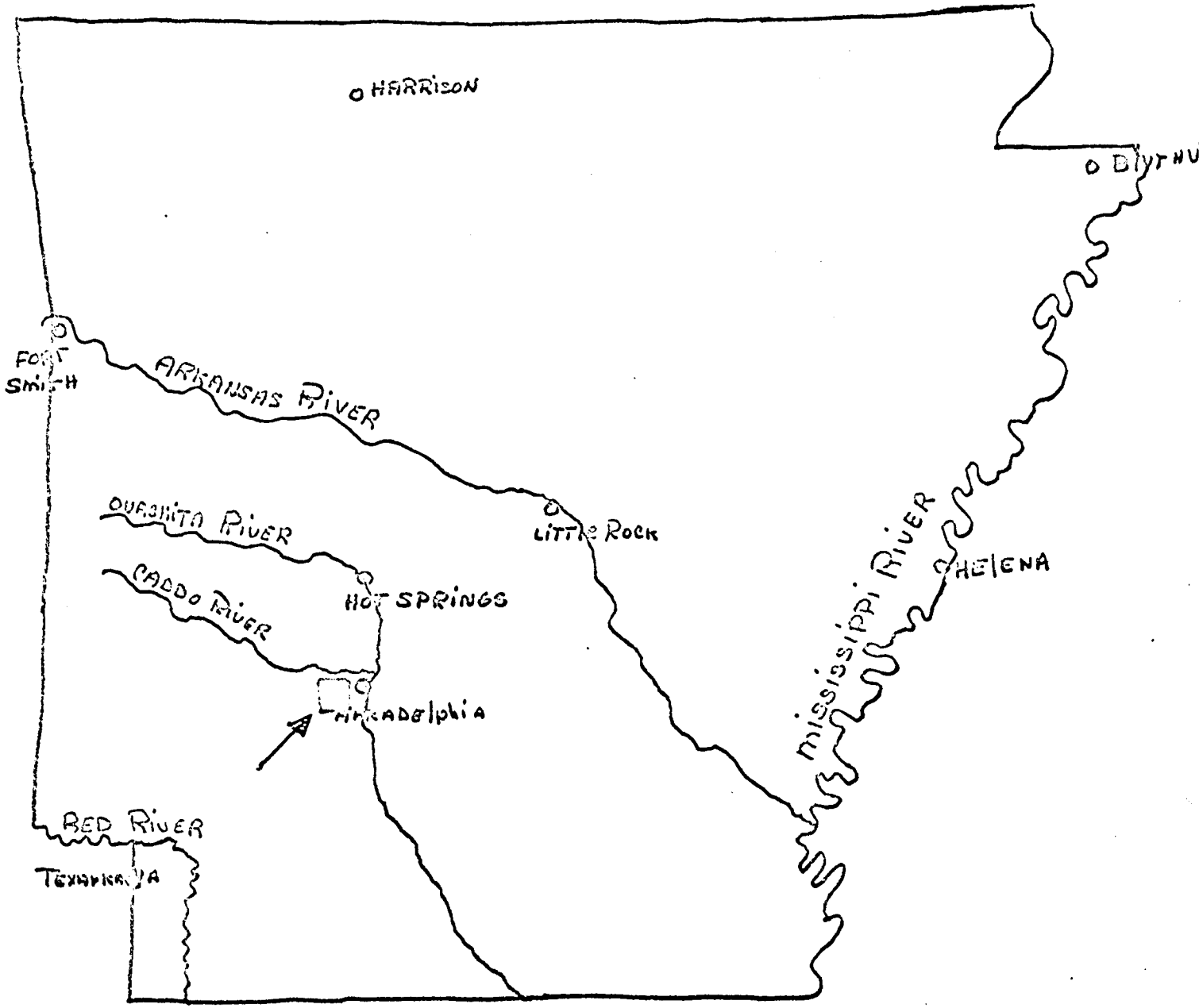
In Level 2 (99.5' to 99.0') we found an abundance of pressure flakes, broken creek pebbles, cores, 50 or more potsherds, most of which were in the south side of the test pit. Among the potsherds were two decorated sherds, one of which appeared to be incised. We found one small arrowpoint (Scallorn) in the southeast corner of the pit. A Gary-like dart point was on the extreme north side of the pit. The soil remained very much the same as Level 1 but we were below the plow zone.

In Level 3 (99.0' to 98.5') we found a slightly darker sand, being about the same texture as Level 2. In this level it appeared that pressure flakes far outnumbered percussion flakes. Potsherds were very near the same in number as in Level 2 but scattered nearly even over the entire level. One well-used pitted stone was found in this level, as well as one Gary-like dart point. There was a distinct soil color change at the bottom of Level 3 which continued to near the bottom of Level 5.

Level 4 (98.5' to 98.0') had a definite change in soil color, it being almost white sand and medium texture. Level 4 had only a few cores, a few flint flakes and five potsherds. These potsherds were immediately under Level 3. No points were found in this level. Since this level indicated that we were nearly through the zone of occupation, we decided to excavate only the northeast quarter of Level 5. Level 5 (98.0' to 97.5') was found to be sterile. Clay was found 4 inches below the surface of Level 5. This clay was light yellow and was slightly mixed with an almost white sand.

Summary

This test pit, on the highest point of the site, is about 2 1/2 feet above the remaining part of the site. The site is mostly southeast from the test pit. All but two points which I have surface collected at this site are apparently Archaic in age. Two Scallorn points were found on the surface in the immediate area of the test pit. This makes a total of three Scallorn points found on the knoll. No pottery has been found on the surface in this area. In the first level, four potsherds were found, in the next two levels, approximately 50 potsherds were found in each level and five found in Level 4. This leads me to believe that two separate occupations exist here because of the difference in the age of the projectile points. The three points which we excavated could very well have been used for arrows. Several questions remain to be answered. Why did we not find any large points? Why are there no potsherds on the surface in the area of the test pit? Why did we not find any charcoal? I hope to answer these questions in the fall after the soy beans have been harvested. I hope to excavate a test pit in an area farther out in the field on a small sandy knoll where most of the dart points have been found.



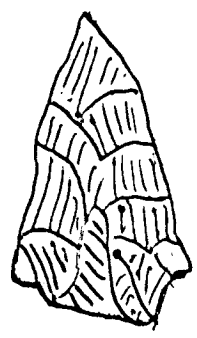
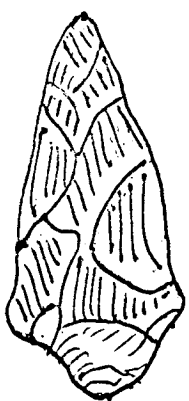
ARKANSAS

These points found in test pit El, Site 3CL88.

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3



Interior Incising in Coastal Southeast Texas: Its Presence and Significance

Wayne B. Neyland and Lawrence E. Aten

As a result of surface collecting and limited testing at more than one hundred sites in the Houston-Galveston Bay area by Neyland and others, coupled with work between Sabine Lake and Galveston Bay by Aten and C. N. Bollich, 15 sherds exhibiting interior incising are now known from collections that total more than 20,000 sherds. Ten of these sherds are from the upper Galveston Bay area, one from Addicks, three from the Sabine Lake vicinity, and one from Bolivar Peninsula. The purpose of this brief note is to report the presence of this relatively rare decorative style on the upper Texas coast and to suggest its significance.

The unity in this small group of sherds is the presence of interior incising. Although typological affiliations are unclear, the available evidence suggests they are at least associated with relatively late cultural assemblages. All of the sherds illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 are from surface collections unless indicated otherwise. The design motifs on most of these sherds are typical of those encountered on Goose Creek Incised and San Jacinto Incised. Other sherds, however, exhibit typologically unrecognized combinations of design motifs (e.g., Fig. 1: D-D' and E-E').

We may summarize the salient evidence on distribution of interior incising as follows:

1. During the Plaquemine Period in Louisiana there are two pottery types with interior incising (Australia Interior Incised and Evangeline Interior Incised) and one type with interior engraving (Anna Interior Engraved) (Quimby, 1951). All of these incorporate design motifs similar to those found in coastal southeast Texas.
2. In the Sabine Lake area of Texas and Louisiana, 3 interior incised sherds are reported from sites (41 OR 51 and 41 OR 13) that have strong Plaquemine Period affiliations (Aten and Bollich, 1969). One sherd from 41 OR 51 (Fig. 1: B-B') is similar to sherds of Australia Interior Incised. Another sherd from 41 OR 6, combines the common parallel horizontal line set on the exterior with diagonal cross-hatching (cf., Harrison Bayou Incised - a Plaquemine Period type) on the interior.
3. At the Singing Sands Site (41GV6) on Bolivar Peninsula, a highly aberrant grog-tempered, sandy paste sherd was recovered bearing incised rectangular panels on the exterior, and incised triangles pendant from the rim on the interior (Fig. 1: D-D'). The assemblage of sherds from this site contains a significant quantity of specimens indicating late Coles Creek Period and/or Plaquemine Period relationship (Aten, n.d.a.).
4. A total of ten interior incised sherds are presently known from the Houston area. Of these, one sherd (Fig. 1: E-E') was excavated in a context of Goose Creek and San Jacinto ceramics and with arrow points; these ceramics also predominated the surface collections where specimens illustrated in Fig. 1: A-A' and C-C' were found. The presence of a small quantity of Caddoan wares at 41HR32, and the inclusions of bone and grog as tempering agents suggest contemporaneity with Coles Creek or later periods. The equivalent time periods in the Galveston Bay area are ceramic periods D, E, and F or post-1000 A.D. (Aten, n.d.b.).

5. Interior engraving is commonly found on Natchitoches Engraved vessels (Suhm, et al, Plate 51) where the complex designs consist of scrolls, bands and cross-hatching. These occur inside shallow bowls and on various vessel forms unrecognized in the coastal sites. Natchitoches Engraved wares are known from the Glendora Plantation, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, and are an important diagnostic type for Historic Caddo.
6. A single shallow bowl with an engraved rectangular element filled with diagonal cross-hatching on the interior is reported from the George C. Davis Site, Cherokee County, Texas (Newell and Krieger, Plate 48). Interior incising also occurs sporadically in Caddoan sites in north-east Texas.

In conclusion, our purpose has been to document the occurrence of a rare form of ceramic decoration, interior incising. This type of design application, occurring less than once in a thousand sherds appears to be a feature of late ceramic assemblages (post 1000 A.D.) in the Galveston Bay area. Well documented contextual data is not available, but all indications are that this trait, although possibly associated with Caddoan ceramic technology, more likely is associated with the ceramic technology of the Lower Mississippi Valley area which becomes much more evident in the Galveston Bay area after 1000 A.D. (Aten, n.d.b.).

References Cited

- Aten, Lawrence E., n.d.a, "Analysis of a Surface Collection from the Singing Sands Site (41GV6), Galveston County, Texas." Manuscript in preparation.
- Aten, Lawrence E., n.d.b, Report on Stratigraphic Testing in Wallisville Reservoir. Manuscript in preparation.
- Aten, Lawrence E., and Charles N. Bollich, 1969, "A Preliminary Report on the Development of a Ceramic Chronology for the Sabine Lake Area of Texas and Louisiana," Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society, Volume 40.
- Quimby, G.I., 1951, "The Medora Site, West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana," Anthropological Series, Volume 24, No. 2, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.
- McIntire, William G., "Prehistoric Indian Settlements of the Changing Mississippi River Delta," 1958 Louisiana State University Studies, Coastal Studies Series Number One.
- Newell, H. Perry, and Alex D. Krieger, "The George C. Davis Site," Memoirs of the Society for American Archeology, Volume XIV, No. 4, Part 2, April, 1949.
- Suhm, Dee Ann, Alex D. Krieger, and Edward B. Jelks, 1954. "An Introductory Handbook of Texas Archeology," Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society, Volume 25.

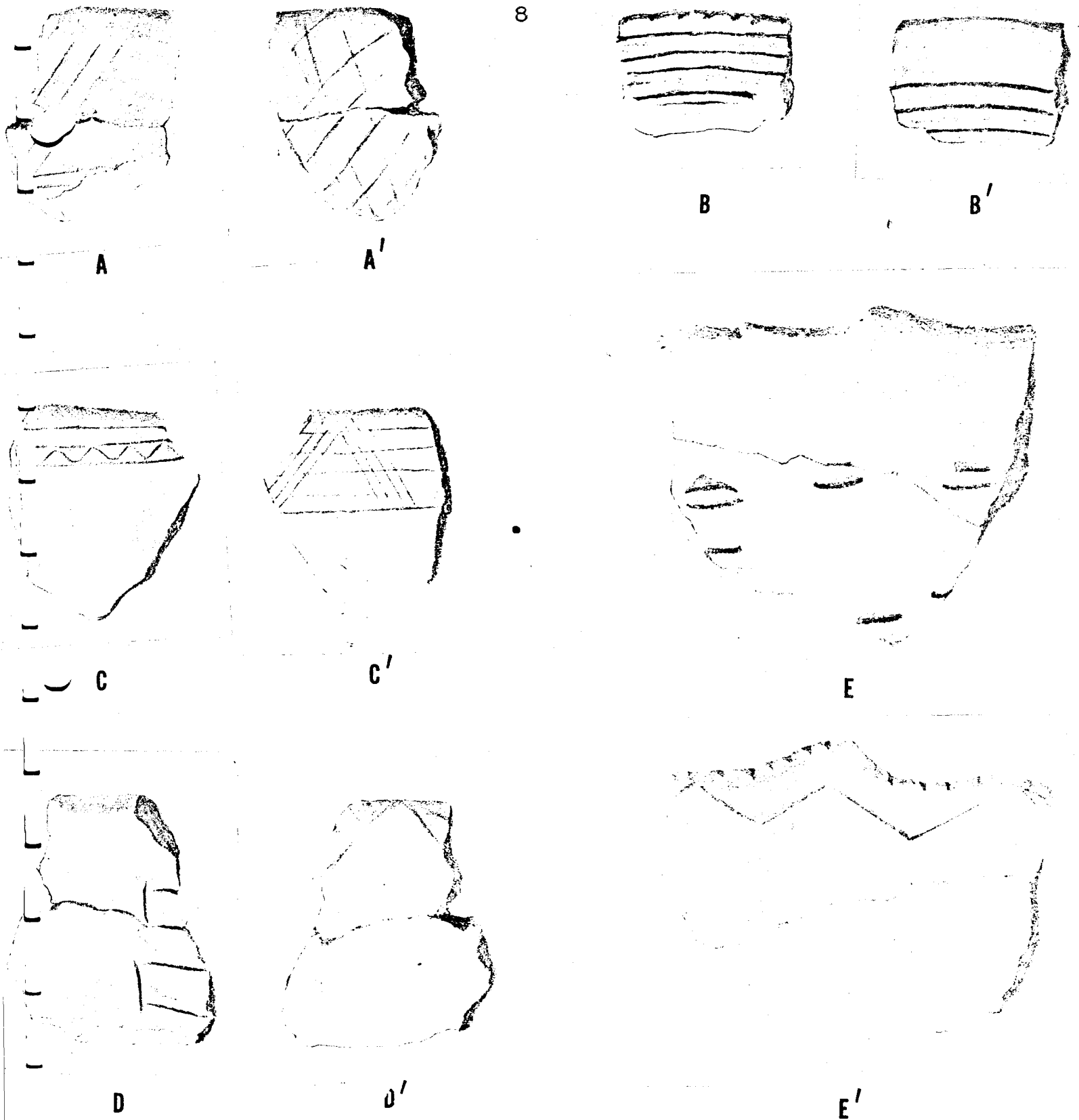
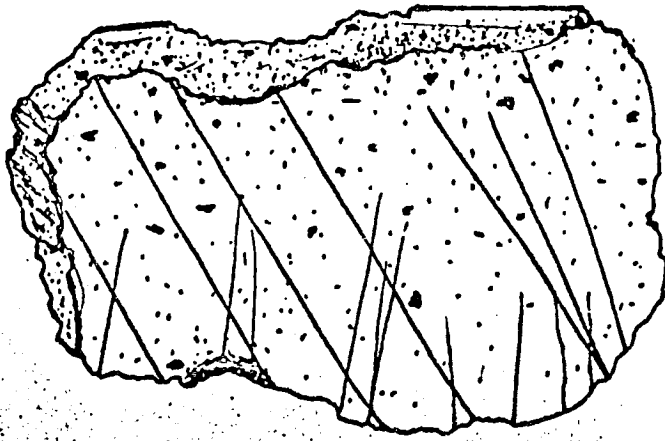
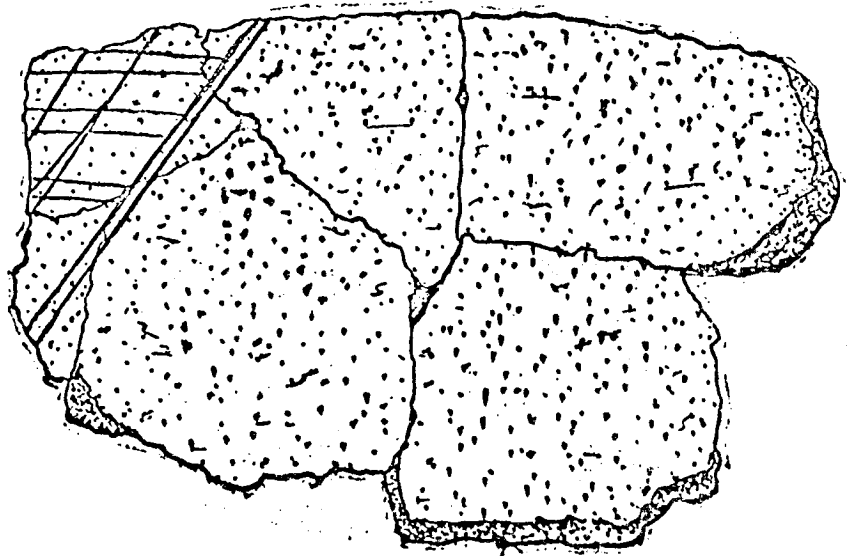


Figure 1: A-A', bone(?)-tempered from site 41/66A6-6 (Harris Co., Texas);
 B-B', grog-tempered (cf. Australia Interior Incised) from site 41 OR 51;
 C-C', sandy paste from site 41 HR 32; D-D', grog-tempered from site
 41 GV 6; E-E', sandy paste from site 41 HR 124 (Exteriors illustrated
 first).



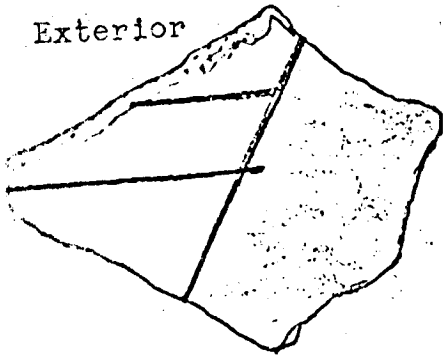
F



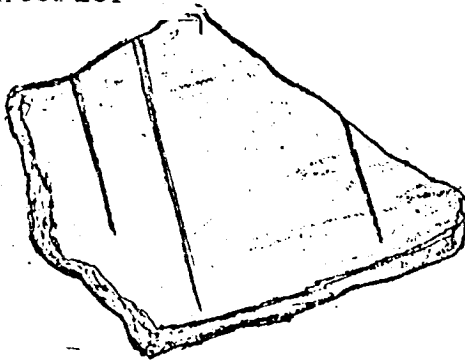
G

Exterior

Interior



H



H'



I

Figure 2: F, interior of grog-tempered rim sherd from vessel F, Houston Ship Channel #2 (41 HR 31); G, interior of sandy paste body sherd from vessel Q, Houston Ship Channel #2 (41 HR 31) I8-24" shell layer #2; H-H', sandy paste from Burnett Bay #1 (41 HR 78); I, interior of sandy paste sherd from Burnett Bay #1 (41 HR 78).