Preface

This research guide is intended to aid the archaeological student in the study and interpretation of Ioquois pottery castellations found in Ontario. We have felt it was essential to define castellation "types." Once these typos have been determined, we present the reader with a discussion of their distribution as they occur upon the sites described by the late William J. Wintemberg of the National Museum of Canada. This involves his work at the Uren, Middleport, Lawson, Roebuck, and Sidey-Mackay village sites (see list of references used). Those sites form the initial framework for our analysis.They represent a fairly diversified distribution both in time and space. Uren, Middleport, and Lawson represent a developmental series in southwestern Ontario. Roebuck affords clues to types found in eastern Ontario. All these sites are prehistoric. Sidey-Mackay Site is a historic contact-period site in Simcoe County, north central Ontario. Our initial study and definition of types is based, then, upon those five sites.

Once this initial description has been carried out, information is added from a study of eight additional sites. This material comes from a survey of unpublished material and data. Those include the Pound, Downsview, Black Creek, McKenzie, Aurora, Benson, Cahiague and Hardrock Sites . This data considerab)y hroadens both our time and space distributions of Ontario castellations.

Information upon the Pound Site was obtained through the work of Dr. Philleo Nash of the University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum. Information upon Cahiague was obtained by Professor T.F. McIlwraith of the same institutions. The remaining sites were excavated by the writer in association with the aforementioned institutions.

The information gathered at these sites is then added to the information obtained from a study of Wintemberg's material, just as we hope the reader will add the information for his own site (or sites). The total distribution of types is then presented in Chart form.

The final stage in our research guide is to draw beginning conclusions from the distribution of the castellations as they appear in time and space. We present what is mainly a historical construction attempting to draw a picture of the origin, development and inter-relationships that appear to have existed within the Iroqois villages studied. This begins with the earliest times at Uren and comes up to the full historic period at Cahiague.

We sincerely hope that this guide will prove a suffiently clear, brief and understandable guide to the reader to enable him to locate his own material in the scheme of things with a minimum of effort and confusion.

Toronto, Canada
December, 1955

J.N. Emerson

CASTELLATION DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE IROQUOIS

by J. Norman Emerson.

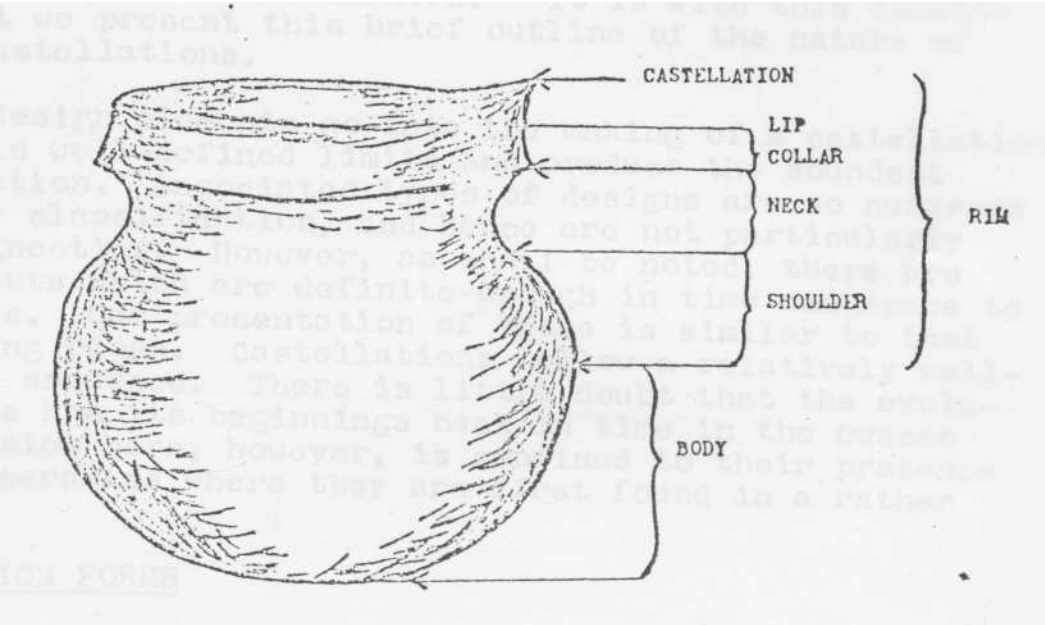

Figure 1. FEATURES OF IROQUOIS VESSEL FORM

The basic features of Iroquois vessels are rim and body sherds. The rim is a complex entity made up of collar, throat (or neck), and shoulder elements. The collar has an upper surface, lip or rim surface, and the lower expanded area marks the collar base. The constricted area beneath the collar is the throat or neck. As the vessel expands again to a point of maximum diameter, we encounter the shoulder. The portion beneath this is the body proper. The bottom, or base, of an Iroquoian vessel is seldom noted because of its rounded, globular nature. The pointed or peaked elevations that occur on the rims of many Iroquois vessels are known as castellations.

CASTELLATION DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE IROQUOIS

Perhaps no single feature of ceramics is more characteristic and diagnostic of an Iroquoian vessel than the pointed or peak-like elevations which occur on the rims of the pottery vessels (figure 1, page 1.) These appendages are shaped in some cases like pouring spouts, but there is little to lead one to believe that they were ever functional. Their purpose seems to be essentially decorative. Such an element becomes a very useful index of cultural inter-relationships. Those forms, technically known as "castellations," change in size and shape as Iroquoian culture develops, and those variations are sufficiently distinctive to act as "time markers." It is with this consideration in mind that we present this brief outline of the nature of Ontario Iroquoian castellations.

Both form and design elements go into the making of a castellation. The forms vary within well-defined limits and produce the soundest basis for classification. Associated types of designs are so numerous as to virtually defy classification, and hence are not particularly satisfactory as diagnostics. However, as shall be noted, there are certain design elements which are definite enough in time and space to serve as time markers. Our presentation of these is similar to that followed in discussing pipes. Castellations follow a relatively well-marked developmental sequence. There is little doubt that the evolution of castellations has its beginnings back in time in the Owasco culture. Our discussion here, however, is confined to their presence in Ontario Iroquois ceramics where they are first found in a rather incipient stage.

1. EARLY CASTELLATION FORMS

(a) The Classic Early Castellation (figure 2A, page 3.)

The earliest development of castellaitons appears to take place in the Uren-Middleport area of southwestern Ontario. The classic early form is a relatively small raised point combined with oblique line, horizontal line, and punctate decoration. This particular form is present and popular at both Uren and Middleport. It also achieves some popularity at Lawson. At Roebuck and Sidey-Mackay it is almost absent, and is submerged by much more diverse forms. This type is essentially "incipient" for it does not tend to modify to any extent either the shape or the decoration elements of the usual early Iroquois vessel. At a much later date the castellation becomes a discrete element distinctive both in form and design treatment, so that it quite noticeably alters the total vessel appearance. It must be noted that in the early castellations there arc many which are less pointed, and some are even rounded in form, stressing again their incipient nature. These do not appear to be sufficiently distinctive, however, to set up a special sub-type.

(b) High Collared Nubbin Castellation (figure 2B, page 3.)

(c) High Collared Pointed Cantellation (figure 3A, page 4.)

Two futher castellation forms which appear rather early are distinctive in that they are associated with high collared vessels. These forms - the "high collared nubbin" and the "high collared pointed" -- are never numerically popular at our major sites, but appear as useful time markers for early and intermediate time period sites.

These types of castellations are present at Lawson and Middleport, but are absent from Uren, Roebuck, and Sidey-Mackay. This distribution tends to enhance the case for the early development of castellations in the peninsular area. No doubt there are earlier antecedents elsewhere, probably in New York. (Ridley's recent article would lead us to believe that they reach a peak of development at sites of the Lalonde focus in North Simcoo County.)[1] It would be difficult, otherwise, to explain the degree of formal differentiation present at even this early stage.

EARLY CASTELLATION FORMS

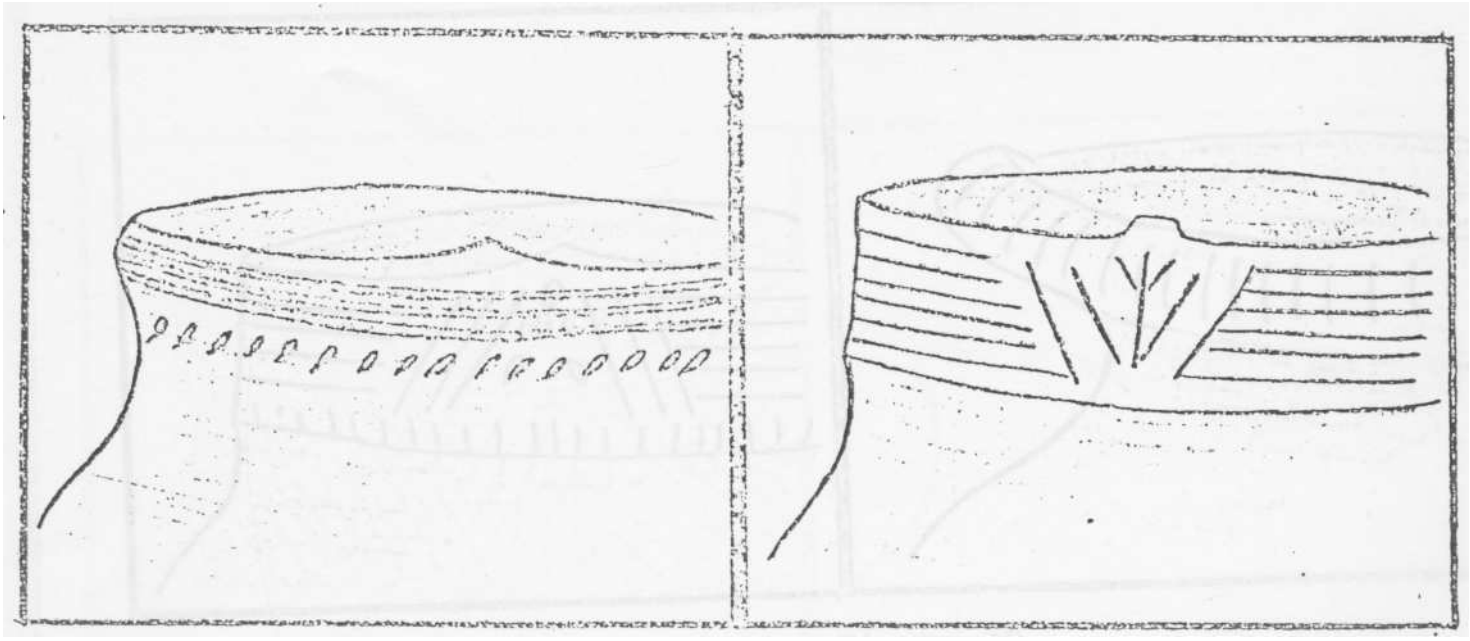

Figure 2A.
Classic Early Castellation.

Figure 2B.
High Collared Nubbin Castellation.

1.Ridley, Frank "The Huron & Lalonde Occupation of Ontario," American Antiquity, Vol.XVII, No. 3, January 1952.

(d) Rolled Rim Castellation (figure 3B, page 4.)

A fourth major type is the "rolled rim" castellation. This occurs upon a very characteristic rim form which in itself places restrictions upon the associated design possibilities. This rolled rim is indeed a haracteristic early form. Its flaring and overhanging nature results in a poorly defined collar area, hence the castellations are usually associated with relatively uncomplicated design motifs. The rolled rim is restricted to the peninsular area, and Middleport and Lawson.

EARLY CASTELLATION FORMS

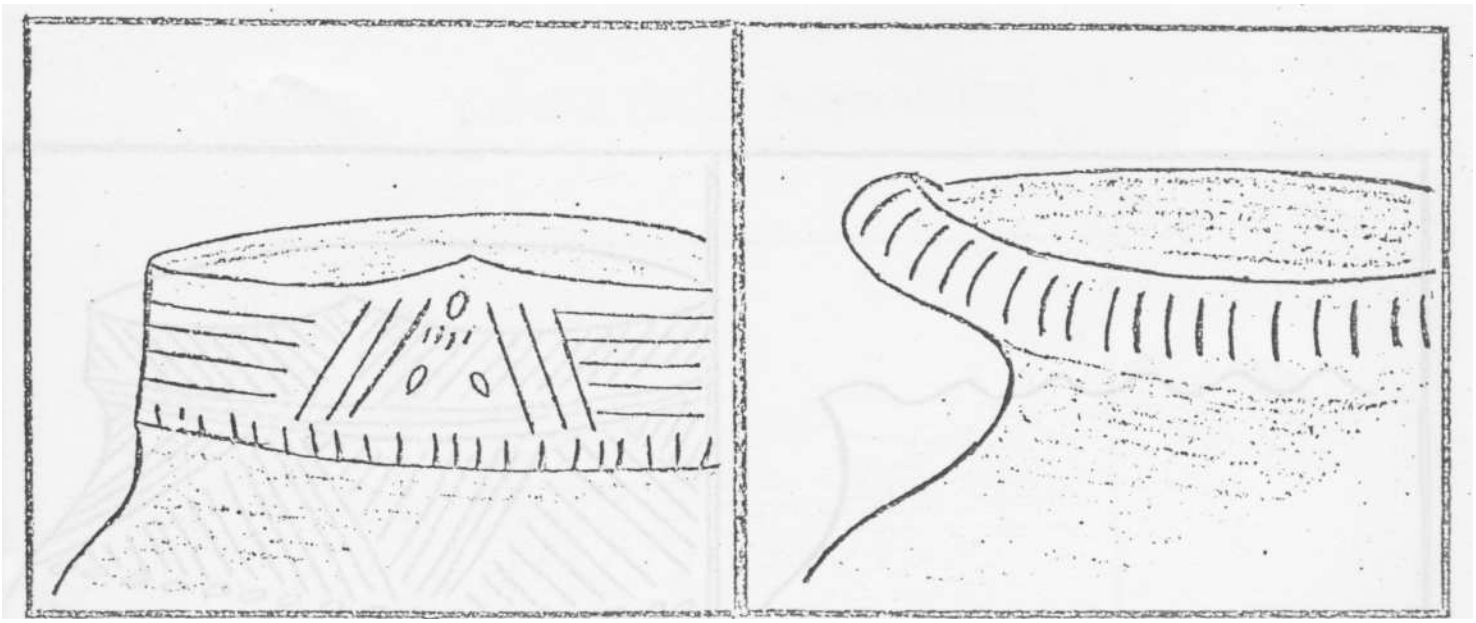

Figure 3A.
High Collared Pointed Castellation.

Figure 3B.
Rolled Rim Castellation.

2. MIDDLE PERIOD CASTELLATIONS

(a) Complex Throat Castellation (figure 4, page 5.)

Most early castellations are associated with relatively simple designs involving oblique, horizontal, and punctate elements upon a not-too-well defined collar. The necks of these vessels are usually plain. In the middle period, however, a pointed castellation is often associated with pottery showing complex neck decoration.

Castellations of this type are present at Middleport and Lawson. They are not particularly popular, nor are the designs executed with the precise artistry to be found at later sites. They are also found at Roebuck and Sidey-Mackay, so that the individual specimen is not an especially good period marker. However, in terms of numerical popularity they appear to be a middle period form.

(b)Scalloped Multiple Castellation (figure 5A, page 5.)

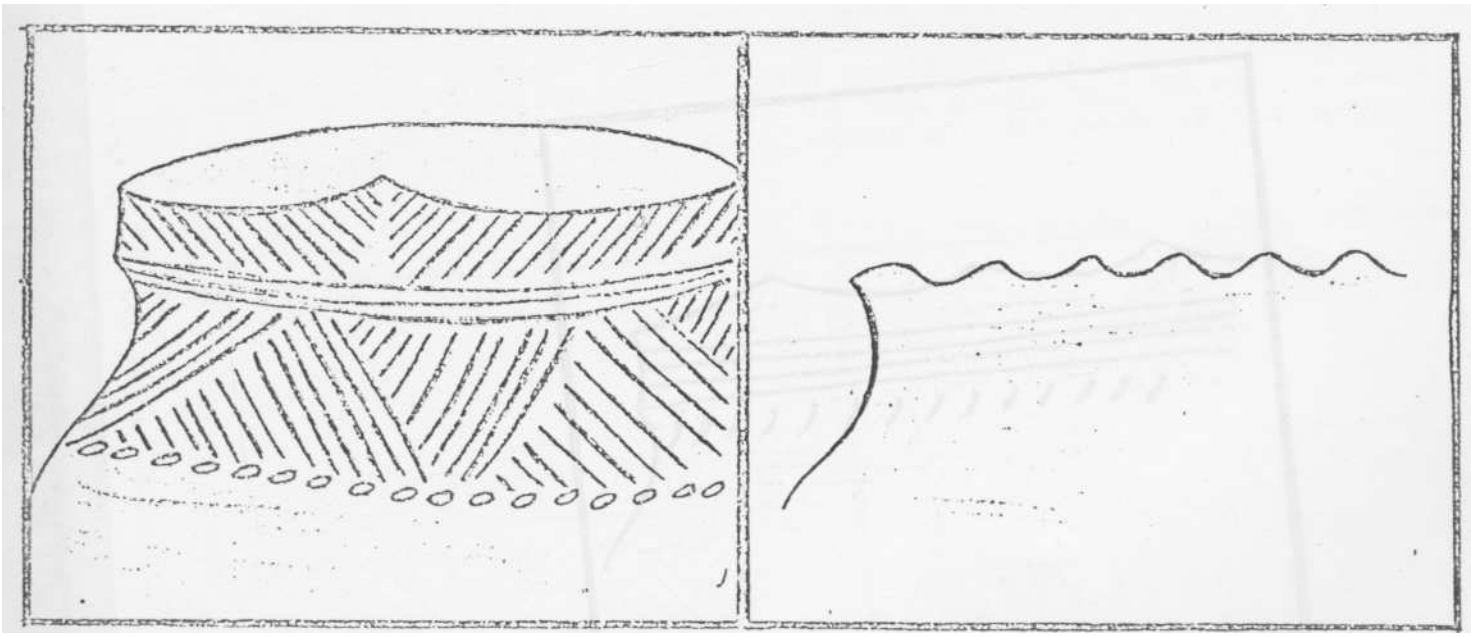

Figure 4.
Complex Throat Castellation.

Figure 5A.
Scalloped Multiple Castellation.

(c) Developed Multiple Castellation (figure 5B, page 6.)

Multiple castellations, both closely and moderately-closely spaced together, are never particularly popular forms on a given site, but they appear to have a rather central period distribution. The closely-spaced multiple castellation I refer to as "scalloped multiple," and the more widely-spaced types as "developed multiple" castellations. The scalloped form is often an otherwise undecorated type. It may well have been introduced from outside, while the "developed multiple" appears to be the simple addition by accretion of a typical Iroquoian element.

Both those forms appear to have a peninsular and eastern distribution, being found at Middleport and Roebuck. Wintemberg points out that no scalloped forms are present at the Lawson site. Similarly, they lack any popularity at the contact period Sidey-Mackay site. Thus, the multiple form appears to be a product of the intermediate period when both Middleport and Roebuck were influencing the growth of Ontario Iroquois.

MIDDLE PERIOD CASTELLATIONS

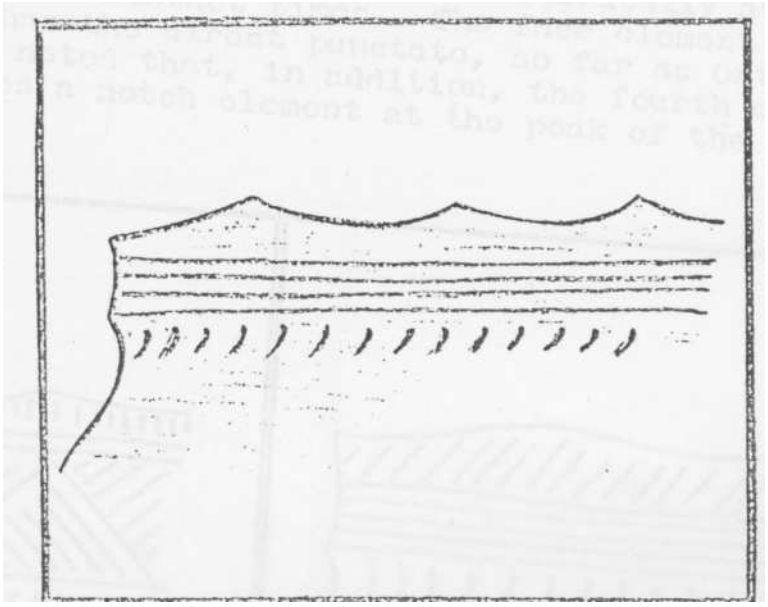

Figure 5B.

Developed Multiple Castellation.

3. LATE PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC CASTELLATIONS

As in the case of many other cultural features, the late prehistoric and contact period Iroquois elaboration of castellation forms appears to stem from the Roebuck area. A profusion of complex form and design combinations occur at Roebuck which continue on with vigour into contact Sidey-Mackay times. These appear characteristic of a general ceramic effervescence taking place during this period. The over-all results are intricate and aesthetically pleasing.

(a) Broad Multiple Castellation(figure 6A, page 7.)

(b) Undulating Multiple Castellation(figure 6B, page 7.)

Multiple forms, somewhat broadly spaced, are both pointed and Characteristically rounded or undulating. These combined with intricate decoration are highly diagnostic of Roebuck ceramics. These two forms, and the broadly-spaced type in particular, show a distribution restricted to Roebuck and Sidey-Mackay, and also are pretty definitely a late prehistoric to contact period form.

(c) Circular Punctate Castellation Forms (figures 7A and B, and figures 8A and B, page 8.)

The Roebuck site also produces a considerable proliferation of castellations featuring a circular punctuate element, often combined to simulate a face design at the castellated peak.

All four of these forms are popular prehistorically Roebuck, and evidently last right into contact times. The face element has somewhat lost popularity than has the direct punctuate, so far as Ontario is concerned. It should be noted that, in addition, the fourth of these punctuate forms involves a notch element at the peak of the castellation.

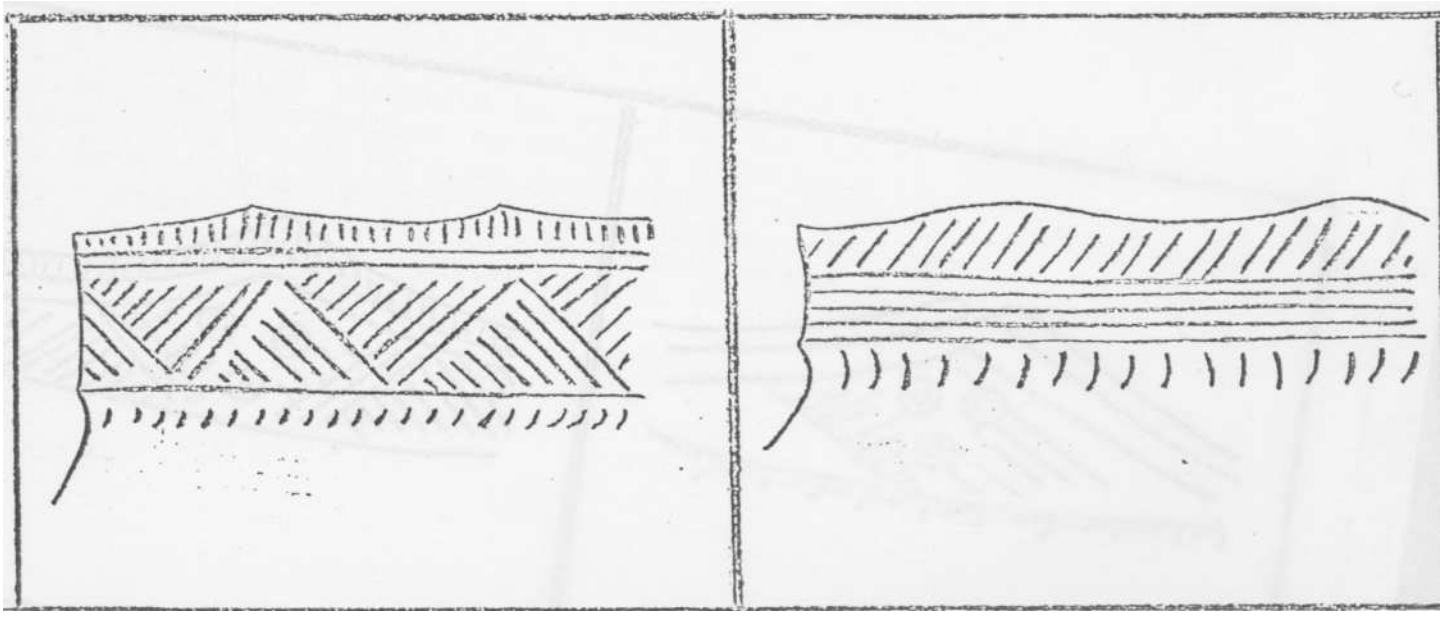

Figure 6A.
Broad Multiple Castellation.

Figure 6B
Undulating Multiple Castellation.

LATE PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC CASTELLATIONS

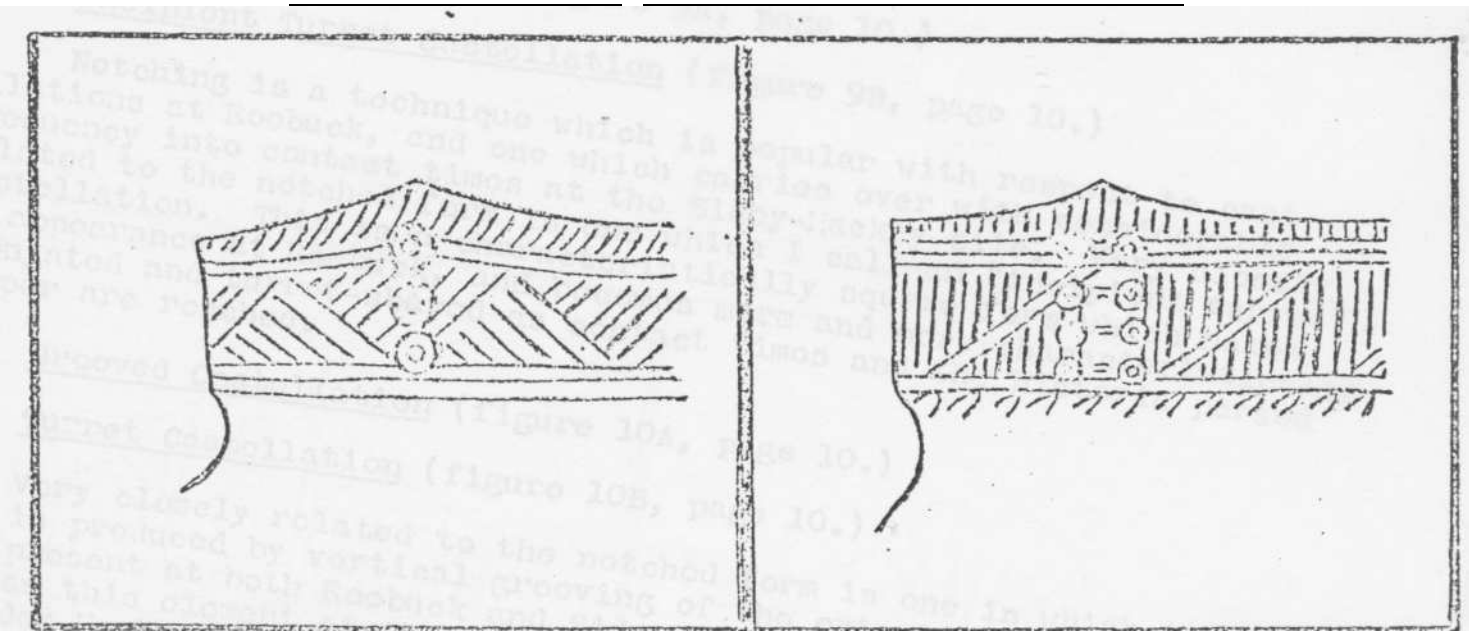

Figure 7A.

Single Row Circular Punctate Castellation.

Figure 7B.

Double Row Circular Punctate Castellation.

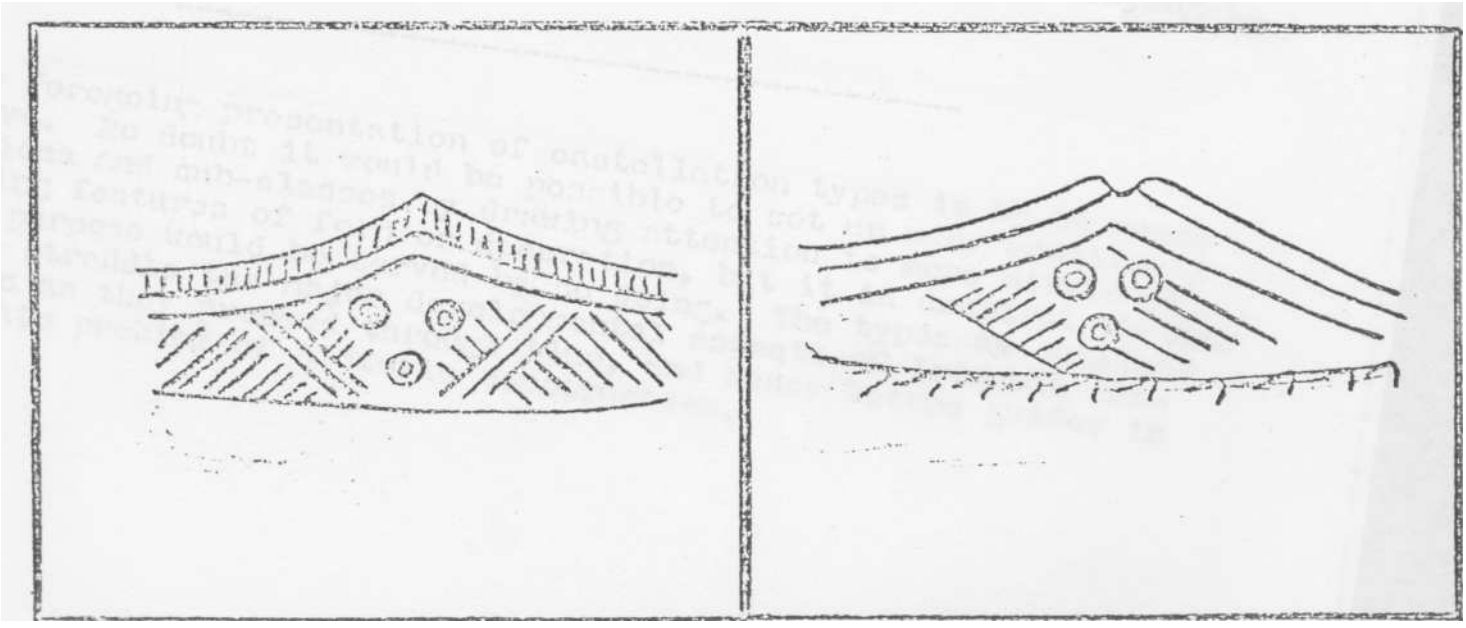

Figure 8A.

Plain Punctate-Face Castellation.

Figure 3B.

Notched Punctate-Face Castellation.

(d) Notched Castellation (figure 9A, page 10.)

(e) Incipient Turret Castellation (figure 9B, page 10.)

Notching is a technique which is popular with respect to castellations at Roebuck, and one which carries over with considerable frequency into contact times at the Sidey-Mackay site. Very closely related to the notched form is one which I call an "incipient turret" castellation. This is a characteristically square form which makes an appearance at Roebuck, and becomes more and more characteristically elongated and turret-shaped as contact times and the historic period proper are reached.

(f) Grooved Castellation (figure 10A, page 10.)

(g) Turret Castellation (figure 10B, page 10.)

Very closely related to the notched form is one in which the basic type is produced by vertical grooving of the exterior face. This is a typo present at both Roebuck and Sidey-Mackay, and while only "a few" possess this element at the former, it is very popular at the latter. At Sidey-Mackay, as suggested above, the turret castellation comes into its own rather fully developed, and it also occurs quite commonly on historic Huron sites such as Cahiague.

The turret castellations which Wintemborg refers to as "battlemented forms are quite numerous at Sidey-Mackay, while they are only just present at Roebuck, where Wintemberg dismissed then by saying that “others are battlemented.”

The foregoing presentation of castellation types is by no means exhaustive. No doubt, it would be possible to set up many additional subdivisions and sub-classes by drawing attention to more minute distinguishing features of form or decoration, but it is doubtful whether a useful purpose would be served by so doing. The types as outlined appear to straddle the major developmental aspects of Iroquois castellations as they proceed through time, and hence become guides in our ultimate problem of historic construction.

LATE PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC CASTELLATIONS

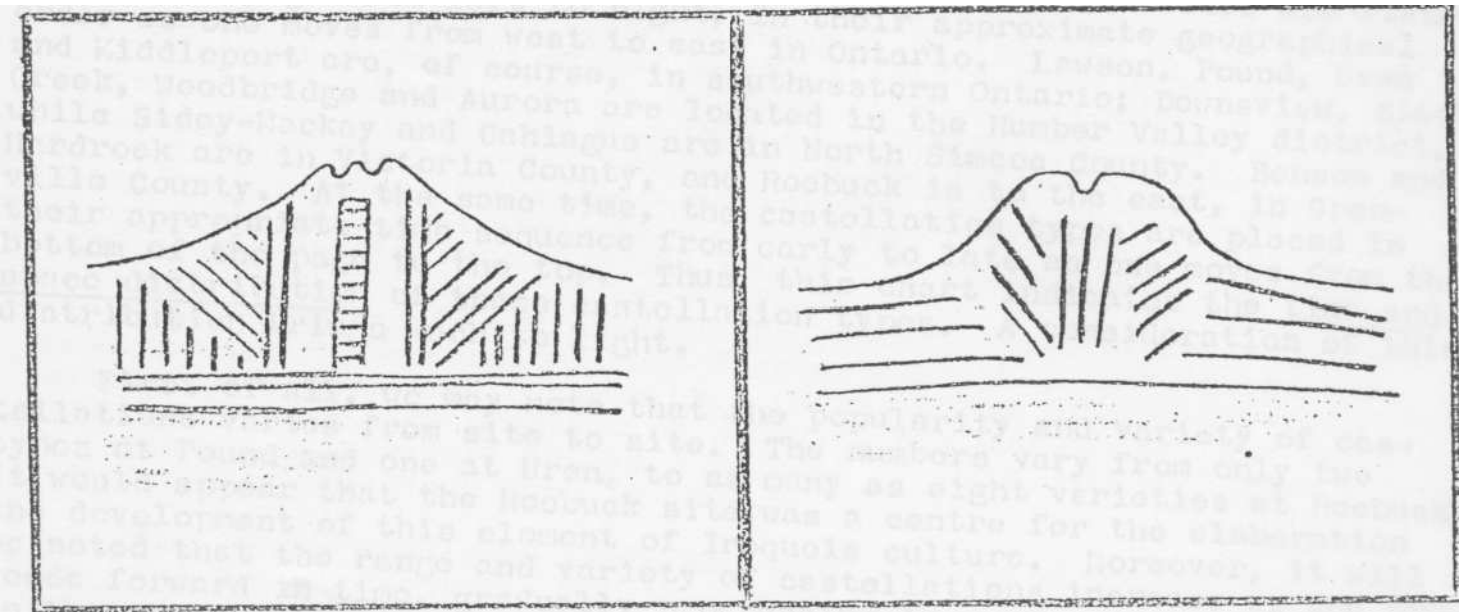

Figure 9A.
Notched Castellation.

Figure 9B.
Incipient Turret Castellation.

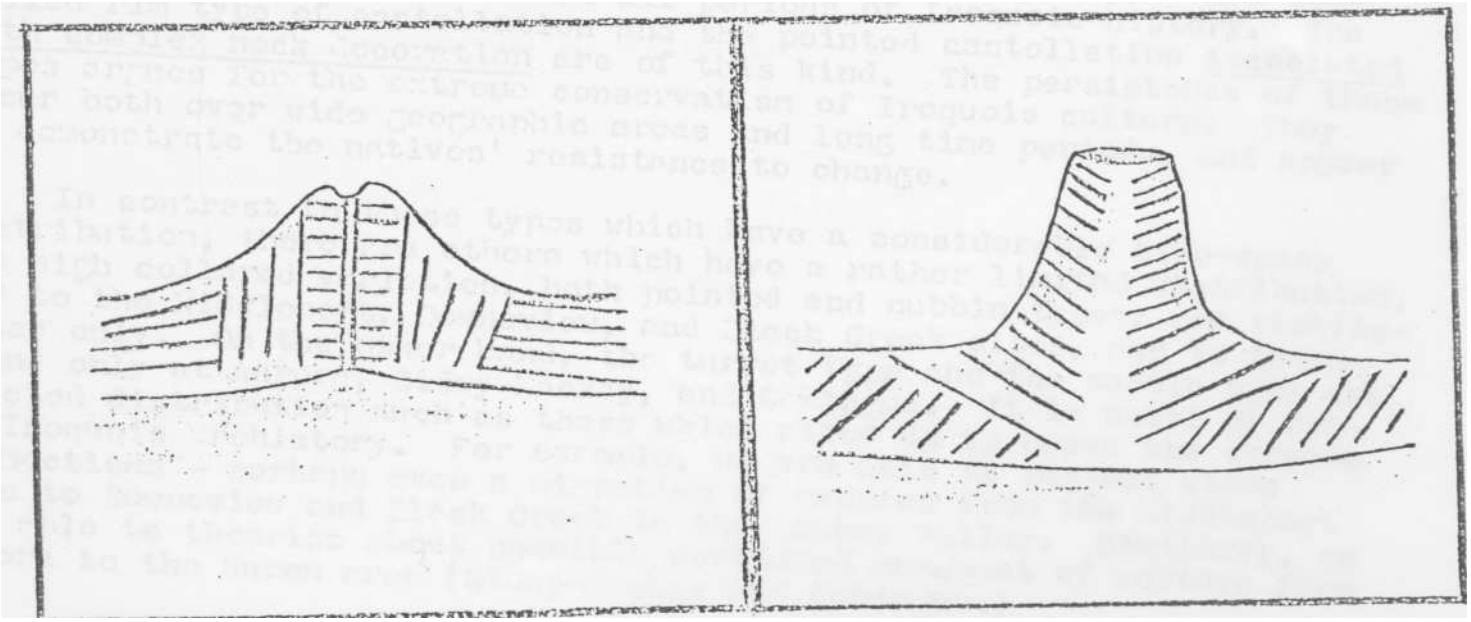

Figure 10A.
Grooved Castellation.

Figure 10B.
Turret Castellation.

CONCLUSION

A study of the chart showing the distribution of our castellation types yields rather interesting information. It will be noted, however, that the chart is constructed in a particular way. The sites are listed across the page from left to right, in their approximate geographical order as one moves from west to east in Ontario. Lawson, Pound, Uren and Middleport are, of course, in southwestern Ontario; Downsview, Black Creek, Woodbridge and Aurora are located in the Humber Volley district, while Sidey-Mackay and Cahiague are in North Simcoe County. Benson and Hardrock are in Victoria County, and Roebuck is to the east, in Grenville County. At the same time, the castellation types are placed in their appropriate time sequence from early to late as one moves from the bottom of the page to the top. Thus, this chart indicates the time and space distribution of these castellation types. A consideration of this distribution brings much to light.

First of all, we may note that the popularity and variety of castellations varies from site to site. The numbers vary from only two types at Pound and one at Uren, to as many as eight varieties at Roebuck. It would appear that the Roebuck site was a centre for the elaboration and development of this element of Iroquois culture. Moreover, it will be noted that the range and variety of castellations increase as one proceeds forward in time, gradually progressing in number and variety up to the contact period as exemplified at the Benson and Sidey-Mackay sites. At the historic period the number of variations are restricted to a very few popular types.

The next most evident observation is that certain types are popular at almost all sites and at all periods of Iroquois history. The rolled rim type of castellation and the pointed castellation associated with complex neck decoration are of this kind. The persistence of these types argues for the extreme conservatism of Iroquois culture. They occur both over wide geographic areas and long time periods, and appear to demonstrate the natives' resistance to change.

In contrast to these types which have a considerable time-space distribution, there are others which have a rather limited distribution. The high collared varieties, both pointed and nubbin types, are restricted to the Middleport, Downsview, and Black Creek sites, and to these sites only. On the other hand, the turret type and the saddle typo are found only at Aurora, Sidey-Mackay, and Cahiague. It is cases of restricted distribution such as these which allow us to weave the threads of Iroquois prehistory. For example we are able to suggest close connections – perhaps even a migration of peoples from the Middleport site to Downsview and Black Creek in the Humber Valley. Similarly, we are able to theorize about possible northward movement of culture from Aurora to the Huron area (Sidey-Mackay and Cahiague).

A study of the distribution of the circular punctuate , undulating multiple, and the face punctuate types raises problems of origin and development. It will be noted that the latter two types occur only at Benson and Roebuck; the circular punctuate type, however, occurs at

McKensie, Benson, Sidey-Mackay, and Roebuck. It should also be noted that Benson and Sidey-Mackay are historic (contact period)sites, whereas McKensie and Roebuck are prehistoric. These facts of time-space distribution allow us to theorise roughly as follows: these types of castellations developed at Roebuck at a fairly early date (middle-Iroquois times) because it is the only site which possesses all three varieties. This influence was felt as it spread westward, and was first felt by the McKensie people at Woodbridge in prehistoric times. Considerably later, but still apparently a vital source of culture change, the influence was felt up the Trent Valley and ultimately to the western borders of the Huron country in contact period times.

The foregoing do not exhaust the possibilities of analysis which leads to the “construction” (not “reconstruction”) of Iroquois prehistory, but they should serve as a guide to the interested researcher and provide him with a method of studying his own collection in such a way as to add greatly to his enjoyment of them, and at the same time broaden the story they have to tell.

The reader should be forwarned that a study of castellations will not tell the whole story, but they make a beginning. It is necessary to study each of the items recovered by excavation in a similar way – the pipes, the arrowheads, the bone beads – before a total picture can be gradually built up. The study of the space and time distribution of castellation types can be an interesting and profitable approach to the study of Iroquois history and culture change.

DISTRIBUTION OF ONTARIO IROQUOIS CASTELLATION TYPES

#	Lawson	Pound	Uren	Middleport	Downsview	Black Creek
	McKenzie	Aurora	Benson	Sidey-Mackay	Cahiague	Roebuck	Hardrock

Form:	#Sites:													Fig.No.
	L	P	U	M	D	BC	Mc	A	B	SM	Ca	R	H	
Turret								x		x	x			10B
Grooved								x	x	x				10A
Incipient Turret	x						x	x	x					9B
Notched								x	x	x	x	x		9A
Circular Punctate							x		x	x		x		(7A & B)
Undulating Multiple									x			x		6B
Broad Multiple							x	x	x	x		x		6A
Developed Multiple				x			x	x				x	x	5B
Scalloped Multiple				x								x	x	5A
Complex Throat	x			x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	4
Rolled Rim	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x				3B
High Collared Pointed				x	x									3A
High Collared Nubbin				x	x	x								2B
Classic Early	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	2A

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