

PARSONS SITE CERAMIC PIPES

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INTRODUCTION

Sixty-five ceramic pipe fragments were recovered from the Parsons site, including three from the initial assessment conducted in 1988. The sample consists of 11 pipe bowls, 15 intact mouthpieces, one stem and elbow section, three juvenile pipes and 35 miscellaneous fragments. No complete examples were recovered, and one stone pipe bowl fragment is discussed with the ground stone tools (Cooper, this volume). The following discussion of the ceramic specimens is consistent with the classification system used by David Smith in his 'Iroquoian Ceramic Smoking Pipe Project' (Smith 1992). It is a simplification of the typology used by Emerson (1967) in his analysis of the Payne site.

DESCRIPTION

Pipe Bowls

Eleven pipe bowl fragments are included in the site assemblage, however, observations concerning bowl forms were made if most of bowl was intact, and few specimens are sufficiently complete to describe in terms of both form and decoration. For the purposes of analysis, the decoration will be described in terms of plain, ring or combined ring and punctate design elements.

Two trumpet pipe rim fragments are similar in form to each other (Figure 23:a, b). The lips on the outflaring rims are rounded and measure 3 mm in width. The interior and exterior surfaces are reddish brown and are highly burnished. The rim diameter of both fragments is projected to be 60 mm and the incomplete bowl heights are 10.2 mm and 12.5 mm respectively. No decoration is extant on either rim fragment.

The ring motif is the primary motif on eight of the bowl fragments. The basal portion of one bowl appears to be from a collared form. The wall of the bowl has been thickened to produce a raised area where several rings, each ap

proximately 3.4 mm wide, have been demarcated. The lip of the bowl is missing and the minimum height is 17.7 mm. It is not possible to determine the interior profile. The exterior is smooth and grey-brown in colour and the interior is blackened.

Three fragments with a concave-convex, or vasiform, profile exhibit the ring motif. The bowl of one pipe has been mended from two pieces found in Midden 2 (Figure 23:c). The lip is missing as is the greater part of the base. The minimum height of bowl is 50.3 mm. Three incised lines encircle the upper part of the bowl at the point where the bowl exterior is constricted and the interior profile is slightly outflaring. The remaining bowl exterior is plain. The surface is a mottled dull red and grey colour and has been roughened by charred areas on the bowl. Five rings are extant on another vasiform bowl, also where the exterior is constricted (Figure 23:d). The interior profile is relatively straight but flares out slightly towards the lip. The exterior surface is reddish-brown and has been lightly burnished. The third example is highly burnished, and is decorated with two small punctates which have been placed above three rings at the point where the profile is gently expanded (Figure 23:e). Both the lip and base of the bowl are missing and the minimum height is 57.5 mm. The interior profile is straight.

Two bowl fragments are decorated with encircling, incised lines immediately below the lip and punctates have been placed below the rings. The interior and exterior profiles are convex. One example (Figure 23:f) has a rounded lip which measures 1.7 mm in width. The base is missing and the minimum bowl height is 32.5 mm. Five rings have been incised above a single row of punctates and the bowl has been fired to a reddish-brown colour. The other example (Figure 1:g) has lip which was ground flat and measures 5.4 mm in width. The minimum bowl height is 20.5 mm and three rings are present above a single row of punctates. The bowl has been fired to a buff colour and the surface is extremely worn.

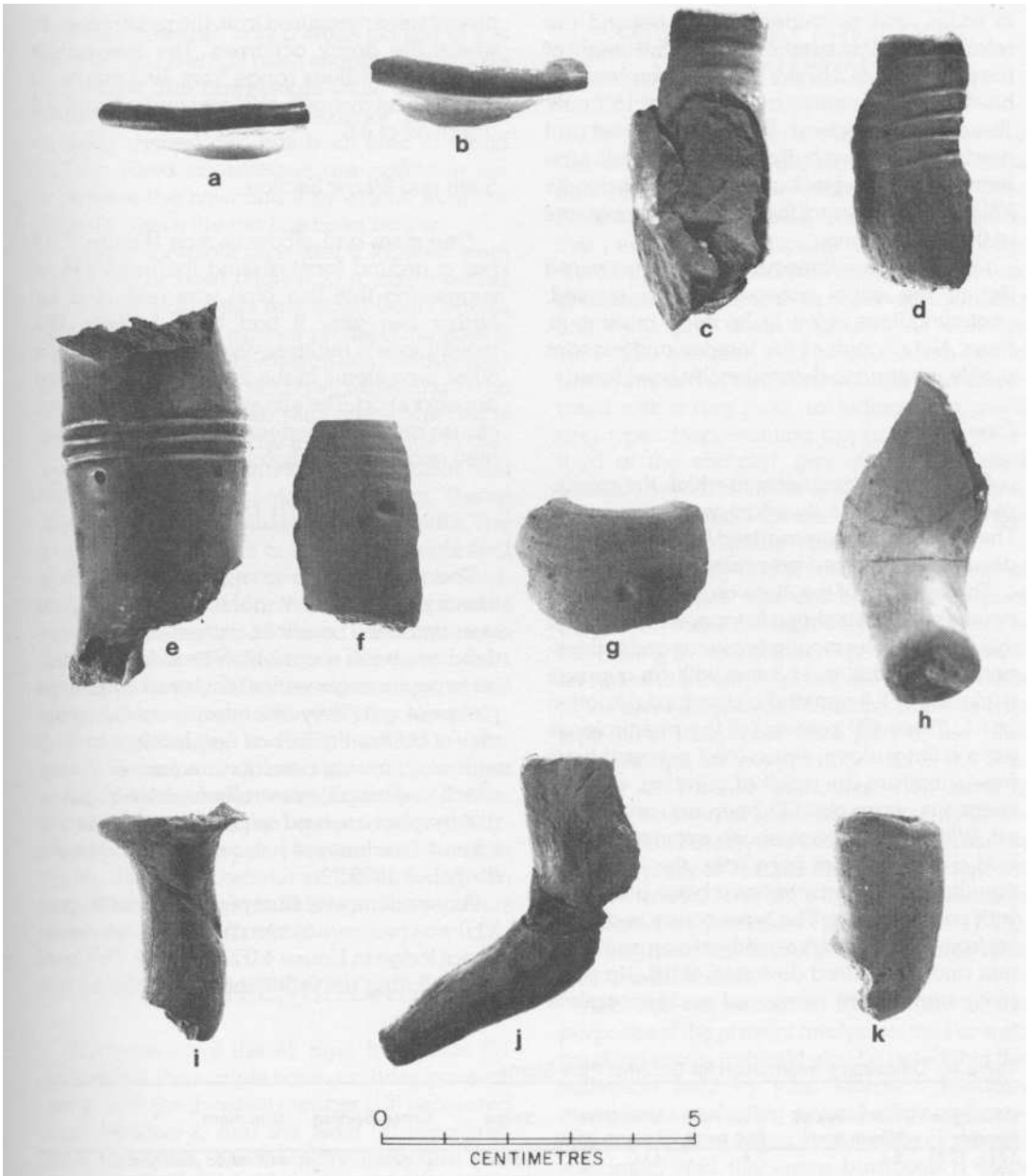


Figure 23. Selected Ceramic Pipes: Bowl Fragments (a-g), Stem and Elbow Section (h), Juvenile Specimens (i-k).

One small fragment may be part of a coronet pipe. The lip is slightly rounded and measures 1.6 mm in width. The exterior below the lip is expanded to give the impression of a collar and the interior profile is convex to straight. The "collar" is plain and measures approximately 10 mm in height. Five encircling incised lines are discernable below this raised

area, although the base of the bowl is missing. The minimum height of the bowl is 22.6 mm. The exterior surface is grey-brown and the interior has been blackened.

One fragment exhibits an interior profile which is outflaring towards an everted lip and this form does not fit into Smith's (1992) classificatory system. The lip is flat, measures 5.7 mm

in width, and protrudes slightly beyond the relatively straight exterior profile. The height of the protrusion is 2.5 mm. While incomplete, the bowl height measures a minimum of 15.2 mm. The exterior is smooth but not burnished and has been fired to a buff colour. A "lipped" pipe form is illustrated by Kapches (1982:Appendix E5) in her summary of the previous excavations at the Parsons site.

One final miscellaneous fragment recovered during the initial assessment has incised, encircling lines below its lip but is missing its base. Not enough of the interior and exterior profile is extant to determine the bowl form.

Pipe Stems

Fifteen stem fragments in which the mouthpiece portion is fully intact were recovered. These fifteen are summarized below and basic descriptive data are presented in Table 40.

The majority of the stem cross-sections are circular and their shape is tapered toward the mouthpiece. The mouthpieces ranged in thickness from 6 mm to 11.3 mm with an average thickness of 8.6 mm and a standard deviation of 1.5. Three (20 percent) of the mouthpieces have a flat surface, seven (46.7 percent) have facets that are the result of grinding, and the remaining examples (33.3 percent) are rounded. With the exception of one example, which had a square stem bore hole, the holes are circular and appear to have been produced with smooth reeds. The holes range in diameter from 1.3 mm to 4 mm, with an average of 3.1 mm and a standard deviation of 0.8. No complete stems were recovered and incomplete

pieces were measured from the mouthpiece to where the break occurred. The incomplete stem length values range from 19.3 mm to 50 mm, with an average of 34 mm and a standard deviation of 8.6.

Stem and Elbow Section

One stem and elbow section (Figure 23:h) has a ground facet around the mouthpiece, suggesting that this pipe was reshaped for further use after it had been broken. The mouthpiece is relatively thicker (16.1 mm) than other pipe stems in the sample and the stem appears short. The elbow meets the stem at an obtuse angle. The exterior surface is undecorated and has been lightly burnished.

JUVENILE PIPES

The term juvenile is applied to pipe fragments with non-functional features, such as a stem without a borehole, as well as fragments that have been roughly finished, decorated in an irregular manner, or tempered with large pieces of grit. They are interpreted as examples of children's work as they learned to work with clay, as opposed to "miniature" forms, which are small, generally functional pipes, that may have served as personal charms and tokens exchanged during ritual events (Kapches 1992:78).

A near complete trumpet pipe bowl (Figure 23:i) was recovered from a semi-subterranean sweat lodge in House 4 (Feature 38). The lip of the outflaring rim is flat and measures 4.2 mm

Table 40. Descriptive Information for Ceramic Pipe Stems.

Catalogue Number	Thickness at Mouth (mm)	Bore Hole Dia. (mm)	Min. Stem Length (mm)	Shape	Cross-Section	Comment
1271, 1273	9.8	2.4	43.0	tapering	circular	burnished plain dec.
1787	6.4	1.9	32.0	tapering	circular	plain dec. buff colour
1911	7.7	3.6	50.0	tapering	circular	burnished plain dec.
1917	11.3	2.9	38.4	cigar	circular	mouthpiece ground
2298	7.6	3.0	19.3	tapering	circular	plain dec. red-brown
2391	10.0	3.8	40.0	tapering	circular	mouthpiece ground
2729	11.0	3.9	28.7	tapering	circular	mouthpiece ground
3071	8.2	2.8	24.3	tapering	circular	plain dec. light brown
3486	6.0	2.9	24.6	tapering	circular	lightly burnished dark brown
3638	10.0	3.2	32.9	tapering	ovular	mouthpiece ground
3872	7.4	4.0	44.5	tapering	circular	lightly burnished red-brown
4052	7.8	1.3	31.8	tapering	circular	mouthpiece ground
4053	8.1	3.7	24.0	tapering	circular	mouthpiece ground
4231	9.4	3.9	42.8	cigar	circular	mouthpiece ground
6491	7.7	3.0	34.1	tapering	circular	plain dec. buff colour

in width, however, only a small portion of it is extant. The bowl has been snapped just above the elbow. The bowl height while incomplete measures 38.7 mm. The exterior surface is crudely shaped and has been fired to a buff colour. Reed impressions are visible in the interior of the bowl and they extend from the base to where the rim has been broken.

A near complete pipe with a tapered stem and conical bowl (Figure 23:j) was mended from three fragments recovered from Feature 58 in House 3. The exterior profile of the bowl is convex and a chevron design has been incised on the upper part of the bowl, extending to the lip. The design has been smoothed over and is faintly discernable. The interior profile is also convex. The rim diameter is incomplete and the incomplete bowl height is 21.7 mm. The lip is rounded and measures 3.3 mm in width. The bowl meets the stem at an obtuse angle and the exterior surfaces are smoothed and rounded. The stem is circular in cross-section and its incomplete length is 29.3 mm. The mouthpiece and borehole diameters are 6.2 mm and 2.1 mm respectively. It is the only example of this type of decorative motif in the pipe sample.

A complete pipe bowl (Figure 23:k) is cylindrical in shape and has a straight to convex exterior and convex interior profile. One incised line encircles the bowl just below the lip. The lip is rounded and measures 3.4 mm in width. The rim diameter at the lip is 6.1 mm and the bowl height is 32.2 mm. The pipe has been fired to a buff colour.

PROVENIENCE DATA

Thirty-seven of the 65 pipe fragments (57 percent) in the sample have a midden provenience, with the greatest number (18) recovered from Midden 2, and the least (2) recovered from Midden 1. It is therefore likely that they represent secondary refuse that was deliberately discarded away from the areas in which they were manufactured or used (see von Gernet 1985:169-170). Nearly one quarter of the sample was recovered from interior house features, the majority of which were found in refuse pits or post moulds in Houses 3 and 8. No pipe fragments were found in Houses 1, 2, 4, 6 or 10. Only eight, or 12.3 percent of the fragments were recovered from features in exterior house activity areas. Five of the fragments have no subsurface provenience.

PIPES FROM PREVIOUS EXCAVATIONS

The smoking pipe assemblage from the University of Toronto excavations of the 1950s and 1970s was made available by Mr. John Reid, and was examined briefly for comparative purposes. A minimum of 50 bowl fragments, five juvenile fragments, and a minimum of six stem fragments were observed, including one stone pipe stem fragment. As with the 1989-1990 sample, a large proportion of the University of Toronto assemblage was decorated with a ring motif, including 16 Iroquois ring types (representing approximately one-third of the sample), one of the decorated trumpet bowls, all three of the collared forms, four of the conical forms, one vasiform type and the three bulbous types.

Approximately one-third of the University of Toronto sample was comprised of trumpet pipes, only three of which were decorated. It is interesting to note that a red slip was present on two of the trumpet pipes, as well as on one of the stem fragments. While no bulbous ring pipe bowl fragments were part of the 1989 assemblage, three were observed in the University of Toronto collection. This form is thought to be a protohistoric form (Ramsden 1990b:369). Finally, one effigy pipe fragment in the University of Toronto collection is identical in style to a St. Lawrence Iroquoian specimen illustrated by Jamieson (1990a:Figure 12.6b). The fragment exhibits a broadly smiling face and is well-crafted.

Although not examined specifically for the purposes of the present analysis of the Parsons smoking pipes, it should also be noted that the collection held by John Morrison includes many items, including several effigy and juvenile or miniature forms, a complete clay rattle specimen, and the entire bowl and a stem portion of a wooden pipe manufactured from beech (Figure 24).

INTERSITE COMPARISONS

Trends in the development of smoking pipe forms on Late Iroquoian sites in southern Ontario include a decline in the frequency of trumpet, conical and ring bowl styles, characteristic of the Middle Iroquoian period, and an increase in the frequency of coronet, bulbous

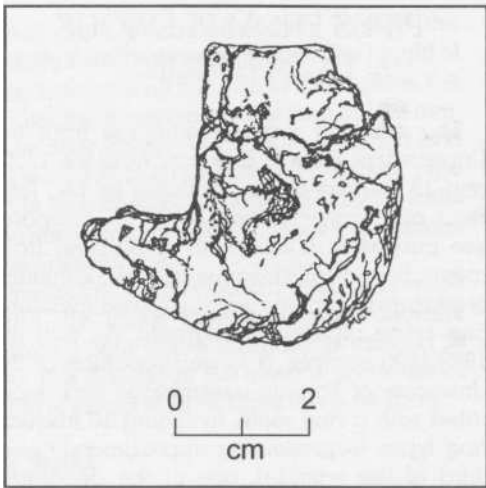


Figure 24. Bowl and Stem Portion of a Beechwood Pipe Bowl in the Morrison Collection from Parsons.

ring and effigy types, which come to dominate sites by the late pre-contact or protohistoric era (Ramsden 1990b:369). Although the 1989-1990 Parsons sample is small relative to extensively excavated Late Iroquoian sites such as Keffer, which yielded 377 bowl fragments and Draper, which produced 587 identifiable bowls, excluding effigies (Smith 1991:4; von Gernet 1985:Table 3.28), these trends may be used to

place the assemblage within a spatial and temporal context.

Three of the 10 identifiable bowls in the 1989-1990 Parsons sample are plain, which is consistent with the Keffer and Draper assemblages, where 30% and 37% respectively were plain (Smith 1991:Table 4; von Gernet 1985:Table 3.28). Barrel and conical forms more indicative of the early Late Iroquoian period together comprise over one-third of the Keffer and Draper assemblages, but no barrel or conical forms were identified in this analysis. It should be noted that trumpet forms — also "early" forms — did comprise one-third of the U. of T. Parsons collection as noted above, as well as one-third of the Draper bowl assemblage. Conversely, while three out of ten bowls at Parsons were vasiform, few or no vasiform pipes were reported for Keffer and Draper (Smith 1991:Table 4; von Gernet 1985:Table 3.28). Finally, coronet, bulbous ring and effigy types are present in the Parsons assemblage, either in the U. of T., Morrison or ASI collections. The latter two types are also present at Draper (von Gernet 1985:Table 3.28, 117). In general, therefore, the Parsons assemblage is consistent with these two early Late Iroquoian sites.