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SINCE THE DAYS of Joseph Caldwell, archaeologists have known that certain important changes took place in aboriginal ceramics of the northern Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina coast after the arrival of Europeans. New pottery designs emerged and aboriginal demographics became fluid, with catastrophic population loss in some places and new groups forming at a rapid clip.

The papers in this volume were presented at the Second Caldwell Conference, held on St. Catherines Island (Georgia), March 30–April 1, 2007. These select groups of scholars attempt to address and define more exactly the nature, timing, and distribution of such changes using aboriginal ceramics as a baseline for approaching a more broad-based anthropological perspective.

The scope of this inquiry focuses on late prehistoric and early historic (A.D. 1400–1700) aboriginal ceramic wares from the Santa Elena (South Carolina) to St. Augustine (Florida). The initial objective is to pin down, precisely, the basics of what, when, and where from the archaeological ceramic evidence. As we characterize the physical nature (technology, form, and/or design) and the time-space distribution of aboriginal ceramics from the target area, we ask:

- Do the aboriginal ceramic complexes change fundamentally with the arrival of the Spaniards?
- Or do the aboriginal ceramic types basically persist, merely shifting geographically?

Without devolving into semantic or taxonomic wrangles, we examine how well archaeological labels

correspond and/or contrast with relative to physical examples of similar ceramic traditions.

These papers explore, on a case-by-case basis, the direct archaeological evidence (aboriginal ceramics and the relevant physical stratigraphy, radiocarbon dates, association with Euro-American wares, and so forth). This line of inquiry proceeds without a detailed consideration of temporal antecedents and without recourse to assumed social, political, and temporal associations based on Euro-American documents. There is also an attempt to situate the physical ceramic evidence from the northern Florida-Georgia-South Carolina coastline with the contemporary archaeological assemblages in the immediate interior.

The ultimate objective of *From Santa Elena to St. Augustine: Indigenous Ceramic Variability (A.D. 1400–1700)* is to define the “who” behind the archaeological ceramic assemblages. The volume concludes with a detailed articulation of the physical evidence with broader ethnohistoric appreciation of exactly who these ceramic-making people were, as well as when and where they lived along the mission coast.

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From Santa Elena to St. Augustine
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Anthropological Papers
No.90—2009—AMNH

From Santa Elena to St. Augustine: Indigenous Ceramic Variability (A.D. 1400–1700)



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Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History
Number 90