

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

FY 2004 Grant Proposal

Please read the [Proposal Guidelines](#) carefully before completing this form. An electronic version of this form is available by contacting the National NAGPRA Program at (202) 354-2207, or via e-mail at NAGPRA_Grants@nps.gov. The form is also available on-line at www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/GRANTS

SECTION 1. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Type of Grant Proposal: *(Check one only)*

1. Tribal Documentation Award (not to exceed \$75,000)
2. Tribal Repatriation Award (not to exceed \$15,000)
3. Museum Documentation Award (not to exceed \$75,000)
4. Museum Repatriation Award (not to exceed \$15,000)

B. Project Summary: Briefly summarize your project in the space provided.

In June of 2003 Robert Cast & Bobby Gonzalez of the Caddo Nation Cultural Preservation Department visited with the museum staff of the American Museum of Natural History to repatriate the remains of an individual that the Museum had affiliated to the Caddo Nation. During this visit we also examined the ethnographic material with the cultural name Caddo and reviewed lists of archeological material and human remains that originate from the aboriginal land area of the Caddo. From these lists, we identified a site in Cass County, Texas as being of particular interest. According to Museum records, this site contained the graves of 17 individuals; the Museum does not have possession of the remains, nor does it know of another institution that does. The focus of our project will be to research the items that originate from this site which we believe are culturally affiliated to the Caddo Nation.

Our plan is to work with our archeological consultant, Dr. Timothy Perttula, to help research this collection. We would like to photograph and measure all complete vessels, and describe vessel type and decorating characteristics. We will also produce drawings of selected vessels with unique characteristics. We will document the remainder of the collection, which includes shell pendants, celts, and glass beads, in much the same way.

During our visit, we also identified approximately 390 archeological items from various locales in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas that may be affiliated with the Caddo Nation. If time permits, we would like to examine and document this material in the aforementioned ways.

This research will benefit both the Museum and the Caddo Nation. The Museum will be able to draw on the research and analysis of an expert in Caddoan archeology. The Caddo Nation will use this research and analysis to continue collaborating with the Museum to identify those items that are likely to be affiliated with the tribe and which meet NAGPRA's definitions of "unassociated funerary object," "sacred object" and "object of cultural patrimony". The documentation report will be a useful tool to other museums and federal agencies in carrying out their NAGPRA requirements.

SECTION 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

All applicants must submit narrative responses to each of the four questions on the following pages. The response to each question must not exceed the space provided. Use a print size that is large enough to read comfortably (10 point or higher is recommended).

A. GRANT OBJECTIVES. What are the objectives of this project? Be specific.

The primary objective of this proposal is to further document a collection from Cass County, Texas (part of the aboriginal homelands of the Caddo people) that the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) bought from Mr. "W. T. Scott" in 1900 for \$200. The Museum has Mr. Scott's handwritten notes & letters in which he indicates that these items were taken from "17 graves". The Caddo Nation believes that these items meet NAGPRA's definition of "unassociated funerary objects" and are affiliated with the Caddo Nation. The Caddo Nation would like to conduct research on these and other archeological objects, to characterize the assemblage of items placed in burials from various locales within the aboriginal homelands of the Caddo.

In order to reach our objectives, we will need a work area for the purposes of photographing and analyzing these items. We plan to begin with the 32 ceramic vessels that originate from this site. We will photograph each vessel while identifying diagnostic materials using standard archeological typology. We will also measure and type each vessel and note the tempering agents used. We will draw items that are typologically unique or have distinctive decorative patterning. We will then analyze our data and write up the results of our research. We will produce two reports. If time permits, we will document as many of the approximately 390 other items that we have identified as being of interest. We have two objectives in researching these collections. The first is to continue collaborating with the Museum in identifying items that are eligible for repatriation to the Caddo Nation. The second is to pursue the repatriation of those items that we believe meet the criteria for repatriation under NAGPRA. The AMNH staff has provided us with the notes & correspondence along with some of the drawings of the burial vessels. The AMNH will also provide a work area for us to use while we document the collections.

We plan on completing this project by first, spending one full-week documenting the collection at the AMNH, if time permits, we will look at the other collections that we have identified as being in our area of concern. Once we have gathered the appropriate information, we then will allot 3 months write-up of the documentation report & 3 months to work on the draft of the report, i.e., editing, placement of photographs, & the Caddo Nation's view regarding the significance of the collection. We will allot another 2 months for final preparation of the report, i.e. discussing any print changes with publishing staff, making any necessary changes, & seeking a consensus on the final editorial decisions. We will allot 4 months preparation for the NAGPRA Coordinator to submit his final NAGPRA report, along with copies of the documentation report to the National Park Service. The final draft of the documentation report will be provided to the American Museum of Natural History. The documentation report will also be provided to a number of educational institutions in the areas of the Caddo homeland (i.e., Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, Arkansas Archeological Survey, and the Louisiana Division of Archeology) along with copies provided to each State Historic Preservation Offices within the homelands of the Caddo Nation. Our museum library will also be provided with copies along with the research library within the Caddo Nation Cultural Preservation Department.

A Rediscovering of Caddo Heritage

The W. T. Scott Collection at the American Museum
of Natural History and Other Caddo Collections
from Arkansas and Louisiana

Bobby Gonzalez, Robert Cast,
Timothy K. Perttula,
and Bo Nelson



Caddo Nation of Oklahoma • Historic Preservation Program
Binger, Oklahoma
2005

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Foreword

Some Personal Thoughts On “Partnering Up”

It is my pleasure to offer some introductory comments on this remarkable volume.

A Rediscovering of Caddo Heritage makes a signal contribution by describing, in marvelous detail, a virtually unknown collection of archeological materials from the Caddo homeland. In so doing, the authors not only broaden our understanding of Caddo traditions and history, they also demonstrate how emotionally-charged repatriation conflicts can be resolved with a healthy dose of cooperation and mutual respect.

The story goes like this: In March of 1900, a farmer from Cass County (Texas) approached the New York’s American Museum of Natural History regarding an archeological site he had discovered on his property. Did the museum, asked Mr. W. T. Scott, wish to acquire an archeological collection recovered from seventeen recently-excavated graves? Although the bones had turned to dust, the associated grave goods comprised a large and striking collection of intact ceramic vessels and pipes, stone celts, European glass trade beads, and a number of extraordinary marine shell pendants and ornaments. The museum did indeed purchase Mr. Scott’s collection, and these artifacts have remained in the research collections of the American Museum of Natural History since then. When the University of Texas subsequently excavated at the same locale (by then known as “the Clements site”) during the 1930s, they were apparently unaware that the American Museum had materials from this site, leaving the Scott collection unstudied for a century.

A Rediscovering of Caddo Heritage is a long overdue analysis of this important collection. At a time when Caddo artifacts are turning up regularly on Ebay, the authors are to be congratulated for their no-nonsense approach to the subject. They document the basics of the American Museum collection and carefully augment their findings with comparisons to other known artifacts from the Clements site cemetery on Black Bayou. In addition, they reproduce the primary documentation available in the accession records of the American Museum and describe other relevant AMNH collections from related sites in Arkansas and Louisiana. This is thorough scientific description at its very best.

That said, the significance of *A Rediscovering of Caddo Heritage* goes well beyond the nitty-gritty of scientific description and historical synthesis. This milestone publication is the concrete result of an extraordinary melding of tribal, archeological, and museum interests.

Introduction

A Rediscovering of Caddo Heritage

Kahna yyuhtsa?ah.¹ Bobby looked across his desk over the piled stack of inventories and asked me if I wanted to go to New York City. I said “No. Not really. Why?”

Back in August of 1997, the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma had submitted a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) claim for a cranium that had been obtained by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York City in 1877. Very little information was known about these remains, other than it had been obtained “as a purchase gift” to the museum by Charles C. Jones, Jr. and was “found in a mound” somewhere near the “Shreveport vicinity” in Caddo or Bossier Parish, Louisiana. “Based on the presence of artificial cranial deformation,” the museum dated these human remains to a period of between A.D. 800 and the contact period. Because of the cranial deformation, and the archeological investigations that had taken place in the past in Louisiana, the museum had determined that the remains were culturally affiliated to the Caddo Nation.

Through consultation with the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma and the Cultural Resources Office staff, in February of 2001 the Notice of Inventory Completion was published for these human remains in the *Federal Register* (Vol. #66, No. 35, p. 11043).

In June 2003, with the financial assistance of the AMNH, Bobby Gonzalez and I planned our visit to the museum. The primary purpose of the trip was to repatriate the skull of this

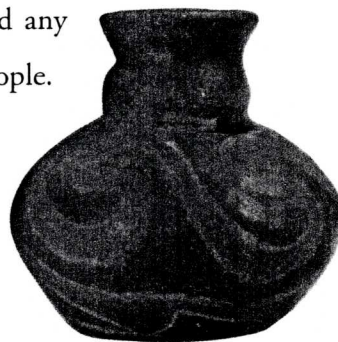


NAGPRA Findings Concerning the W. T. Scott Collection

The Caddo Nation NAGPRA Department often explains to the scientific community that we know where we come from and don't need any anthropologists or archeologists to tell us who we are as Caddo people.

Although the need to explain our interests to the scientific community is a never-ending process, as we continue to try to reconnect our past to the present when dealing with Caddo archeological materials.

This chapter will provide the reader with examples of Caddo Traditional Religious Burial Ceremonies that have been conducted by Caddo people both past and present in an effort to make the reader more aware of why we believe these items at the AMNH are significant to us. We will then provide a brief explanation of our NAGPRA findings for the W. T. Scott Collection.



CADDO TRIBAL RELIGIOUS BURIAL CEREMONIES BEYOND ARCHEOLOGY

by Bobby Gonzalez

The Caddo person goes towards the east where the sun comes up. It is said, God, Ku'nah Kah'ee, "the Great Doctor," prepared a place for all the Caddo people where no

Correspondence between W. T. Scott
and the American Museum
of Natural History

Correspondence between W. T. Scott and the AMNH

Gypsum, Tex.
March 20, 1900
Museum Natural History,
New York.

Gentlemen:

Having seen in the papers your interest taken in the newly discovered tribe of Esquimo Indians in Hudson Bay, and the relics secured from them, I thought perhaps I could interest you in some curios that I have. About two years ago I accidentally discovered on my farm a graveyard containing the relics of a people belonging to the stone age, Indians by their implements and ware found buried with them.

The land where they were found had been in cultivation for over half a century, and the depth of the graves ranged from about three to five or six feet. In them I found all shapes and sizes of pottery, and a few stone arrow-heads, spear-points, and tomahawks. The vessels were made of burnt clay and highly carved in their rude workmanship. They are perfectly formed, and some of them were composed of crushed shells mixed with the clay. The vessels are very well preserved that I have, and their beauty and the genius displayed in their manufacture are truly wonderful. They range in size from an ink-bottle to a two gallon measure. I also found two or three shell and stone & bone necklaces and bracelets. The skeletons had almost wholly disappeared—only a chalky line to mark where the bones had decayed, in the majority of the graves. They were buried in rows, with their heads to the north and feet to the south.

My collection comprises about 25 vessels, two necklaces, two or three tomahawks, a spear head, some arrow heads, and two pipes; and a good number of polished shells. From the best information I can get they belonged to the Aztec tribe of Indians.

I want to sell my collection of relics, and I thought it might suit you to buy them. If you don't want them, could you kindly refer me to some individual or institution who would be likely to purchase them. Let me hear from you soon in regard to the matter.

Address

W. T. Scott,
Gypsum, Texas
Hardeman Co.

APPENDIX 5

**Documentation of Caddo Vessels in
the Collections of the American Museum
of Natural History**

*The W. T. Scott Collection from the Clements Site
(41CS25), Cass County, Texas*

Documentation of Caddo Vessels in the Collections of the AMNH

Each of the vessels in the W. T. Scott collection from the Clements site (41CS25) is described and illustrated utilizing a consistent set of ceramic morphological, functional, and stylistic attributes, the purpose being to thoroughly characterize the assemblage of ceramic vessels placed as funerary objects with Caddo Indian burials in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) collections. Vessel illustrations include a photograph of each vessel, along with an accompanying drawing in many cases to better portray their decoration, shape, and surface texture. Engraved design motifs on bowls and bottles are also recorded so they can be compared with motifs from currently defined engraved types recognized in northeastern Texas, southwestern Arkansas, and southeastern Oklahoma Caddo ceramics.

The following attributes are recorded for each vessel from the W. T. Scott Collection on an individual analysis form (in the interests of time, fewer attributes were recorded for vessels in the C. C. Jones, Jr., DeCost Smith, and Ozan and Washington site collections, see Appendix 2, 3, and 4, this report), in as much as is feasible given the completeness of the vessels in this AMNH ceramic vessel documentation project:

Non-plastics: These are deliberate and indeterminate materials in the paste, including a variety of tempers (grog or crushed sherds, bone, hematite, and quartz sands, etc.) and particulate matter of some size. The size of the inclusions will be noted (ranging from small to large) as seen in any cross-section or surface showing the paste constituents using low-level microscopic (10X lens) and visual examination, along with the percentage amounts that each of the non-plastics may comprise in the clay paste.

Vessel Form: Vessel form categories include open containers (bowls, carinated bowls, and compound bowls) and restricted containers, including jars and bottles. As restricted containers, jars allow access by hand, but bottles do not. Other form attributes include rim profile (outflaring or everted, vertical or standing, and inverted), lip profile (rolled to the exterior, rounded, flat, or thinned), and base shape (flat or rounded).

Core, Interior Surface, and Exterior Surface Colors: Core and surface colors of the vessels are recorded using the Munsell Soil Color Chart, and can be taken along fresh breaks or on surfaces not obscured by smudging, sooting, or charred residues. Observations on ceramic cross-section or core colors permit consideration of oxidation patterns, and thus the conditions under which the vessel was fired and then cooled after firing (see Teltser 1993). Comments are included for these attributes on the presence and location of fire-clouding, sooting or smudging from cooking use, and charred organic remains. Finally, clay residues will also be noted on any plain vessels, and on the decorated vessels when they occur outside any decorative element.

Wall Thickness: Thickness will be recorded in millimeters (mm), using a vernier caliper, at the lip, along the rim, at several points along the body, and at the base when possible.

Interior and Exterior Surface Treatment: The primary methods of finishing the surface of Caddo vessels include smoothing, burnishing, and polishing; brushing, while a popular method of roughening the surface (particularly the body) of large and small Late Caddoan period (ca. A.D. 1400-1700) cooking jars, is considered a decorative treatment rather than solely a functional surface treatment. Smoothing creates a finer and more regular surface and has a matte rather than a lustrous finish. Burnishing, on the other hand, creates an irregular lustrous finish marked by parallel facets left by the burnishing tool (perhaps a pebble or bone). A polished

A REDISCOVERING OF CADDO HERITAGE

FEATURE: W. T. Scott Collection from the Clements Site (41CS25)

VESSEL: 20-5168

NON-PLASTICS: grog (10% of the paste)

VESSEL FORM: Bottle with short spool neck, a flared lip, and a flat base

CORE COLOR: G (fired in a reducing environment, and cooled in the open air)

INTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: very dark grayish-brown (10YR 3/2)

EXTERIOR SURFACE COLOR: very dark gray (10YR 3/1)

WALL THICKNESS: N/A

INTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: smoothed on the bottle neck

EXTERIOR SURFACE TREATMENT: burnished to polished on the neck, body, and base; the base has some eroded patches, and there are also eroded areas on the body.

HEIGHT: 10.55 cm

ORIFICE DIAMETER: 4.6 cm at the neck

DIAMETER AT BOTTOM OF RIM OR NECK: 3.87 cm

BASE DIAMETER: 3.34 cm

ESTIMATED VOLUME: 0.20 liters

DECORATION: Continuous negative scroll motif with a central engraved and ticked line along the center of the scroll (Figures A5.13a and A5.13b). The scroll is divided by three hatched panels originating from both the bottle neck and the base (Figure A5.14), and each panel has a small negative circle within it. Red pigment has been smeared in the engraved decoration.

TYPE: Hodges Engraved (cf. Suhm and Jelks 1962: Plate 37c and Plate 38j)



Figure A5.13a. Hodges Engraved bottle (20-5168).



Figure A5.13b. Drawing of Hodges Engraved bottle (20-5168). Vessel drawn Bobby Gonzalez.

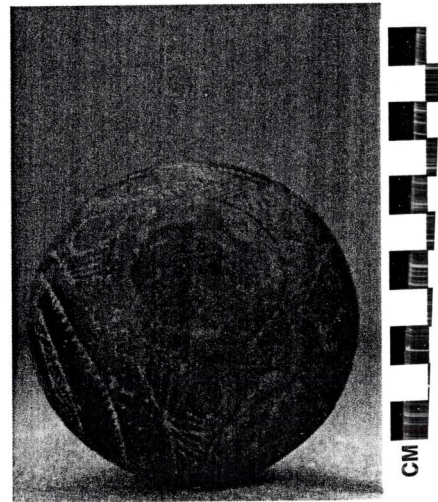


Figure A5.14. View of the base of the Engraved bottle (20-5168).

