**Project Overview**

This study compared the pottery used at twelve sites on or near the Carolina Piedmont, Coastal Plain, and Sandhills to explore patterns of resource acquisition and residential mobility among people living in the Fort (ca. 1500 B.C.– A.D. 1600).

**Research Questions**

- Are specific clay source regions recognizable on the pottery from these sites?
- Are these sites typified by pottery from specific local clay sources?
- Do the sherds from these sites differ chemically from local pottery?
- Are there specific local clay source regions in the vicinity of the sites?
- Do the sandhills and coastal plain clays differ? (Appendix B)

**Clay and Ceramic Chemistry through Neutron Activation Analysis**

**The Sample**

A total of 39 readable pottery samples were cho- sen for neutron activation analysis (NAA). Pottery sherds from ten sites were selected from the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. The sherds from each of these sites were assumed to typify the pottery and resources from the site. Twenty-two sherds from four sites were selected from the Sandhills. The sherds from each of these sites were assumed to typify the pottery and resources from the site.

**Mineral Group 3**

- **Potential Clay Source Regions:** Sandhills and Coastal Plain clays.
- **Chemical Groups:** Group 2B, Group 3.
- **Mineral Components:** Quartz, feldspar, mica, kaolinite, illite, chlorite.
- **Chemical Groups:** Group 3 represents pottery from the Sandhills and Coastal Plain.
- **Mineral Components:** Quartz, feldspar, mica, kaolinite, illite, chlorite.

**Research Methods**

- **Clay and Ceramic Chemistry through Neutron Activation Analysis:**
  - **Sample Preparation:** Pottery sherds from ten sites were selected from the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.
  - **Analytical Techniques:** Neutron activation analysis (NAA) was employed to identify the mineralogical and chemical composition of the pottery.
  - **Results:** Pottery from the Sandhills and Coastal Plain was found to be chemically distinct from pottery from the Piedmont.
  - **Implications:** This result suggests that potters in the Sandhills and Coastal Plain utilized specific local clay sources.

**Acknowledgments**

The authors acknowledge the contributions of the following individuals:

- **Professor M. S. Smith of the Department of Earth Sciences at UNC-Wilmington**
- **Dr. D. W. Brooks, G. Harbottle, and E. V. Sayre**
- **Dr. A. M. Bieber**
- **Dr. E. V. Sayre**

**Conclusions**

- **Sandhills:** Pottery from the Sandhills is chemically distinct from pottery from the Piedmont.
- **Coastal Plain:** Pottery from the Coastal Plain is chemically distinct from pottery from the Piedmont.
- **Piedmont:** Pottery from the Piedmont is chemically distinct from pottery from the Sandhills and Coastal Plain.

- **Implications:** These results suggest that potters in the Sandhills and Coastal Plain utilized specific local clay sources.

**References**


**Appendix B**

- **Clay and Ceramic Chemistry through Neutron Activation Analysis:**
  - **Sample Preparation:** Pottery sherds from ten sites were selected from the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.
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**References**