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Wm. G. Haag, Editor
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THE SO-CALLED PLAIN WARES FROM MOUNDVILLE
AND GUNTERSVILLE BASIN

In the standardization of pottery types decorated sherds have naturally received considerable attention because surface finish is probably the most distinctive character of pottery fragments. A more intimate knowledge of the general archeological relationship is necessary to determine the true relationships of the less differentiated plain sherds. In dealing with this problem several observations have been made. These are summarized as follows:

1. Since it can be demonstrated in all regions that some plain sherds are undoubtedly associated on vessels with decorated areas the percentages of plain types in comparison with decorated types are not statistically valid. An observational note should qualify such tabulations.

2. The problem of the quantity of decoration which is significant in separating a decorated type from a plain type should be solved by the practical application of dividing when a distinction can consistently be made, and when there is demonstrable cultural significance in the division.

3. It is demonstrable in the Gunterville Basin that plain shell tempered types comparable in paste and surface finish show differences in form which are chronologically significant. The evidence for this is the association of certain forms with historic and others with pre-historic sites.

4. A number of similarities over widespread areas are evidence in the plain types. The degree of likeness necessary for inclusion in a single type was discussed, but no conclusions reached as to the combination or distinction of plain types for the Southeastern area as a whole.

Marion L. Dunlevy