

KEYWORDS:

pre-Columbian, Mesoamerica, Olmec/Aztec/Mayan, Inca -- stirrup pot, Maize culture/cultivation, Religious practices/ball game, Mata Ortiz, Pueblo/Mimbres/Anastazi, Christianity art as ritual object, p.71, architecture, gender roles, division of labor

Process terms: clay=decomposed granite, earthenware, grog – temper, greenware, coil technique, slip=liquid clay, firing decoration/finishing, polychrome slip, burnish – purpose, process

Where do the pots of America sit on the timeline? P.xii (after table of contents)

- 1. How have ideas, styles, and technologies from other cultures affected American ceramics? Compare & contrast the way pots were made and fired in America. What do the ceramics of America reveal about the cultures that made it?*
- 2. What we call art today was often ritual objects in past generations. Describe some of the ritualistic purposes that clay objects had in America. (ball games, sacrifices, major gods used as decorative themes).*
- 3. What influences did the Spanish have on the ceramics of the Americas?*
- 4. What are the general characteristics of the Olmec culture, the scope of it, and significant influences on other cultures of the area?*
- 5. How do agriculture and fertility relate to the production of ceramics? Decorations, time of year pots are made, kinds of pots (storage, religious, etc)*
- 6. Domestic wares primarily are produced by women in the Americas. Why? (matrilineal, matriarchal)*
- 7. How do Native American potters incorporate the spirit of one pot into another?*
- 8. Pottery may be valued for many reasons – beauty, functionality, a means to making a living, rituals..*
- 9. Why is earthenware suitable for traditional cultures?*
- 10. Earthenware is porous, what does that mean? What does vitreous mean?*
- 11. What advantage does the round bottomed pot have over a flat bottomed pot for traditional societies?*
- 12. What is the purpose of bisque firing? Of grog? Of temper?*
- 13. What is glaze, different types, components, firing atmospheres (oxidation vs reduction)?*