

ASH RAPIDS CORDED: NEWLY DEFINED LATE WOODLAND CERAMICS FROM NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

C. S. Reid and Grace Rajnovich

ABSTRACT

A newly defined prehistoric ceramic form is identified on 11 sites in the Lake of the Woods - Rainy Lake area of northwestern Ontario, characterized by thin-walled vertical intertwined cord impressed (or cord-wrapped paddle) vessels with short straight rims, unthickened lips, obtuse-angled necks and gently rounded shoulders. The vessel from the type site, Ash Rapids West (DjKq-5), is radiocarbon dated at A.D. 1230 ± 125 and the ceramics have affinities to several previously described types from the Plains and from woodland areas adjacent to the Plains. The name Ash Rapids Corded is assigned on the basis of the type site and the most distinctive visual attribute.

INTRODUCTION

A series of archaeological surveys and test excavations have been conducted by the authors in the Lake of the Woods - Rainy Lake area from 1975 to 1979 and have brought to light a rich, extensive occupation of this area (Fig. 1) including Palaeo-Indian, Shield and Plains Archaic, Laurel, Blackduck, Selkirk and Fur Trade components (Reid 1977, 1978; Rajnovich and Reid 1978). The Woodland components are partially characterized by a number of distinctive ceramics which have been defined and described by MacNeish (1958), Evans (1961), Stoltman (1973), Wright (1967), Hlady (1970) and others. Recent studies have identified some minor instances of ceramics from areas considerably removed from the Lake of the Woods - Rainy Lake locality, such as the Mississippian Oneota wares (Reid 1977: 13), and in addition have identified the presence of other Late Woodland cultural components - notably the study by Arthurs (1978) which has added the Wanikan culture with its characteristic Sandy Lake Ware ceramics (Birk 1977; Cooper and Johnson 1964).

Between the rare occurrences such as Oneota and the relatively frequent occurrences of Sandy Lake there occurred on 11 sites 24 vessels which fitted neither the definitions of the major ceramic types for the area nor those of the rare and minor types: these vessels comprise the Ash Rapids Corded ceramics described below.

ASH RAPIDS CORDED ATTRIBUTES

These ceramics are defined using a sample of 24 vessels (26 rim sherds) from 11 sites (Fig. 1); 21 vessels are from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation collections, Northwestern Region office, and three are from the collection of the late Mr. James A. Mahon, a local amateur archaeologist (Table 1). Ash Rapids Corded is generally characterized by vessels of near-even thickness throughout which have vertical intertwined cord impressions as their sole exterior surface treatment or decoration. A minimum of fifteen attributes have been identified to date and are defined below. The capital letters under Attribute 1: *Profile* refer to the profiles illustrated in Fig. 2: Master Ceramic Chart.

1. *Profile* - profiles are generally straight with either parallel sides or slight thinning towards the lip. The range of variation for the 24 vessels is as follows: - straight with parallel sides, 15 vessels, profiles B, D, E, F.

TABLE 1
DISTRIBUTION OF ASH RAPIDS CORDED

Site	Number of Vessels	Location	Collection	Figures
DjKp-3	8	west-central Lake of the Woods	MCR	2, 3a-c, 4b
DjKq-4	4	Ash Rapids, Lake of the Woods	MCR	2
DjKq-1	3	North-central Lake of the Woods	Mahon	2, 5a-b
DjKq-5	2	Ash Rapids, Lake of the Woods	MCR	2, 8
DiKm-20	1	east-central Lake of the Woods	MCR	2
DiKm-27	1	east-central Lake of the Woods	MCR	2
DiKm-28	1	east-central Lake of the Woods	MCR	2
DjKr-16	1	northwest Lake of the Woods	MCR	2
DkKr-4	1	northwest Lake of the Woods	MCR	2, 4a
Muriel Lake	1	north of Lake of the Woods	MCR	2, 4c
DeKi-6	1	northwest Rainy Lake	MCR	2

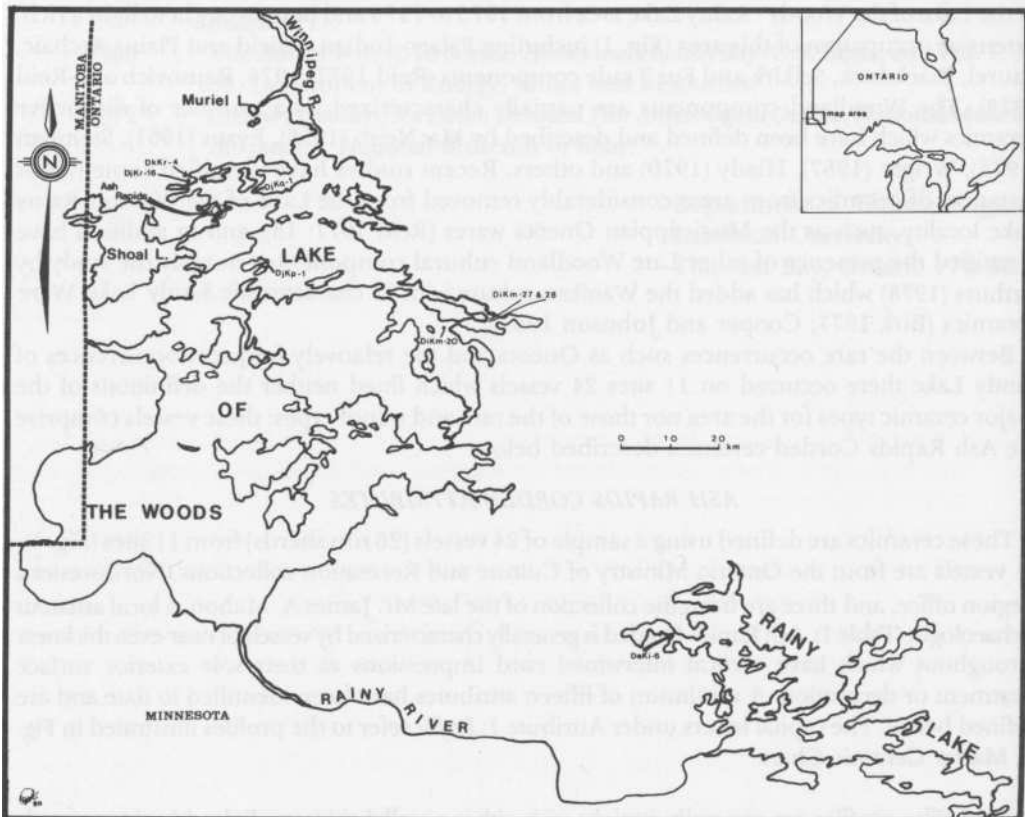


Fig. 1. Lake of the Woods/Rainy Lake area of Ontario showing sites mentioned in the text.

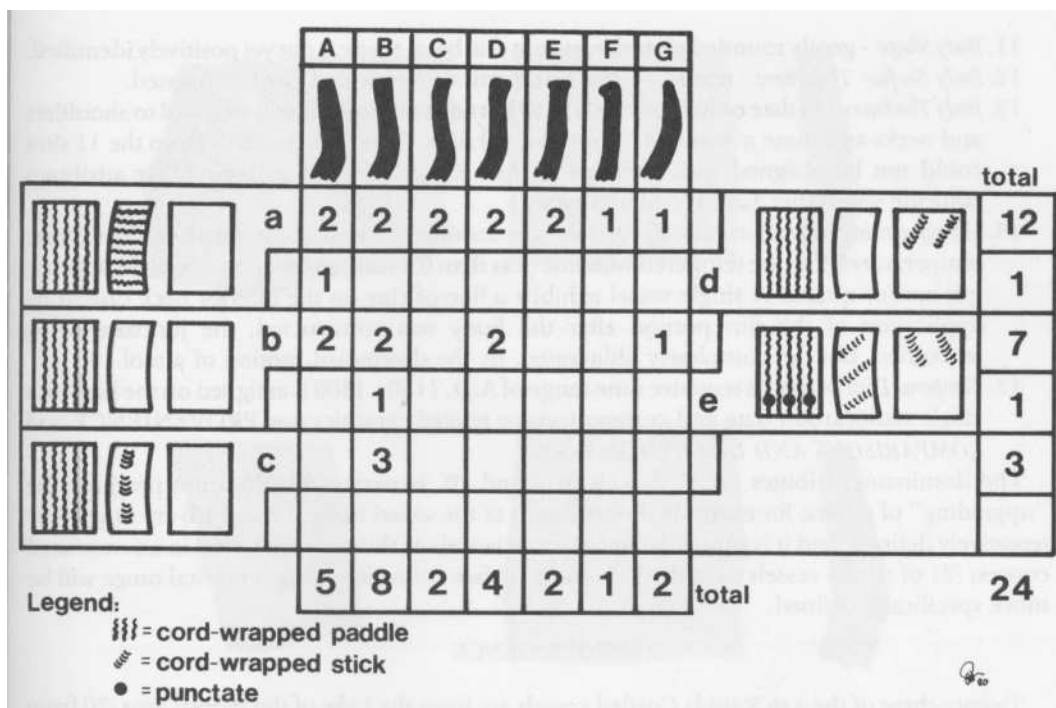


Fig. 2. Master Ceramic Chart.

- straight with slight thinning towards lip, 5 vessels, profile A.
 - incurvate with parallel sides, 2 vessels, profile C.
 - excurvate with slight thinning towards lip, 2 vessels, profile G.
2. *Lip Shape* - with two exceptions (see profile G) lips are flat (15 vessels) or slightly lipped with clay protruding over the interior and/or exterior edge as a result of the application of a paddle to the lip (7 vessels).
 3. *Lip Thickness* - range 3.0 mm to 6.5 mm, mean 5.0 mm, standard deviation 0.4 mm.
 4. *Lip Surface Treatment* - the majority of vessels (12) exhibit a continuation of the cord-wrapped paddle treatment from the exterior rim; a significant number (8 vessels) are plain or smoothed, and four vessels possess cord-wrapped stick impressions (three encircling, one oblique).
 5. *Exterior Rim Surface Treatment* - all vessels are treated with a textile so that intertwined cord impressions are vertical from neck to rim. The cords are twisted, and average 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm in thickness and 1.0 mm to 3.0 mm apart. Six vessels exhibit evidence of partial smoothing near the lip executed after the cord impressions were made. (Formerly this kind of textile impressing was described as "cord-wrapped paddle").
 6. *Rim Height* - range 21.0 mm to 35.0 mm, mean 24.9 mm, standard deviation 3.4 mm.
 7. *Interior Rim Surface Treatment* - the vast majority of vessels (22) are plain, and two have cord-wrapped-stick impressions.
 8. *Neck Shape* gently curved, and forms an obtuse angle between neck and shoulder exterior.
 9. *Neck Surface Treatment* - vertical intertwined cord impressed with the cords usually vertical although some diagonal overlapping of impressions occurs occasionally.
 10. *Neck Thickness* - range 3.7 mm to 7.3 mm, mean 5.0 mm standard deviation 1.0 mm.

11. *Body Shape* - gently rounded globular, except that basal shape is not yet positively identified.
12. *Body Surface Treatment* - textile, in this case vertical intertwined cord impressed.
13. *Body Thickness* - to date only two vessels have portions of the body still attached to shoulders and necks and these measure 4.5 mm and 5.0 mm. Other body sherds from the 11 sites could not be assigned with certainty to Ash Rapids Corded as their other attributes coincide with other Late Woodland types.
14. *Manufacturing Characteristics* - all vessels are laminated, indicating relatively low firing temperatures, and are tempered with fine (less than 0.1 mm) to medium (less than 0.3 mm) grit and/or quartz. A single vessel exhibits a line of clay on the interior neck caused by application of the rim portion after the body was constructed, the juncture being smoothed, but not completely obliterated, by the downward motion of a tool.
15. *Temporal Distribution* - a tentative time range of A. D. 1 150 - 1300 is assigned on the basis of a single radiocarbon date and comparisons to related ceramics (see *PROVENIENCE AND COMPARISONS AND DISCUSSION* below).

The dominant attributes are 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. However this does not preclude the "upgrading" of others; for example the attributes of the vessel body (12 and 13) are as yet only tentatively defined, and it is probable that as more vessels of this type are found in an excavated context (21 of the 24 vessels described are from surface collections), the temporal range will be more specifically defined.

PROVENIENCE

Twenty-three of the Ash Rapids Corded vessels are from the Lake of the Woods area (20 from surface collections) and a single vessel was surface collected on Rainy Lake (Fig. 1). The distribution of vessels by site is shown in Table 1.

Surface Collected Vessels

DjKp-3 (The Meek Site)

Some aspects of this massive multi-component site have been reported previously (Rajnovich and Reid 1978; Reid 1977, 1979). It possesses Laurel, Blackduck, and Selkirk components and a large set of petroglyphs, with the major occupation now identified as a large three-acre Selkirk village and possible ceremonial centre (Rajnovich and Reid 1978: 43) occupied over several hundred years and radiocarbon dated at A.D. 930± 135 to 1410 ± 140 A.D. (Rajnovich and Reid 1978:48). Regrettably all eight Ash Rapids Corded vessels from this site are from the surface. However the radiocarbon date from Ash Rapids of A.D. 1230 ± 124 described below suggests that Ash Rapids Corded ceramics may be contemporaneous with Selkirk wares. On the Master Ceramic Chart (Fig. 2) the eight vessels from Dj Kp-3 fall into categories aB (1), bG (1), aD (1), bD (2), (also shown at Figs. 3c and 4b), aE (1), bA (1) and dA (1) (also shown at Figs. 3a - b). The number of vessels in each category is shown in brackets.

DjKq-1 (The Spruce Point Site)

This large site is also multi-component (Reid 1977: 14) with Archaic, Laurel, Blackduck, Selkirk and Historic components. The major component is the Selkirk occupation. The three surface-collected Ash Rapids Corded vessels are all from the Mahon collection which was recently analysed under an Ontario Heritage Foundation grant (Smith 1979). They fall into categories cB (2) (also shown in Fig. 5b), and eB (1) (also shown in Fig. 5a) on the Master Ceramic Chart.

DjKq-4 (The Ash Rapids East Site)

This site, with DjKq-5, forms part of the massive Ash Rapids site complex which is deeply stratified and contains Plains Archaic, Laurel, Blackduck, Selkirk and Fur Trade components - several aspects of the site complex have been previously published (Rajnovich and Reid 1978: 46;

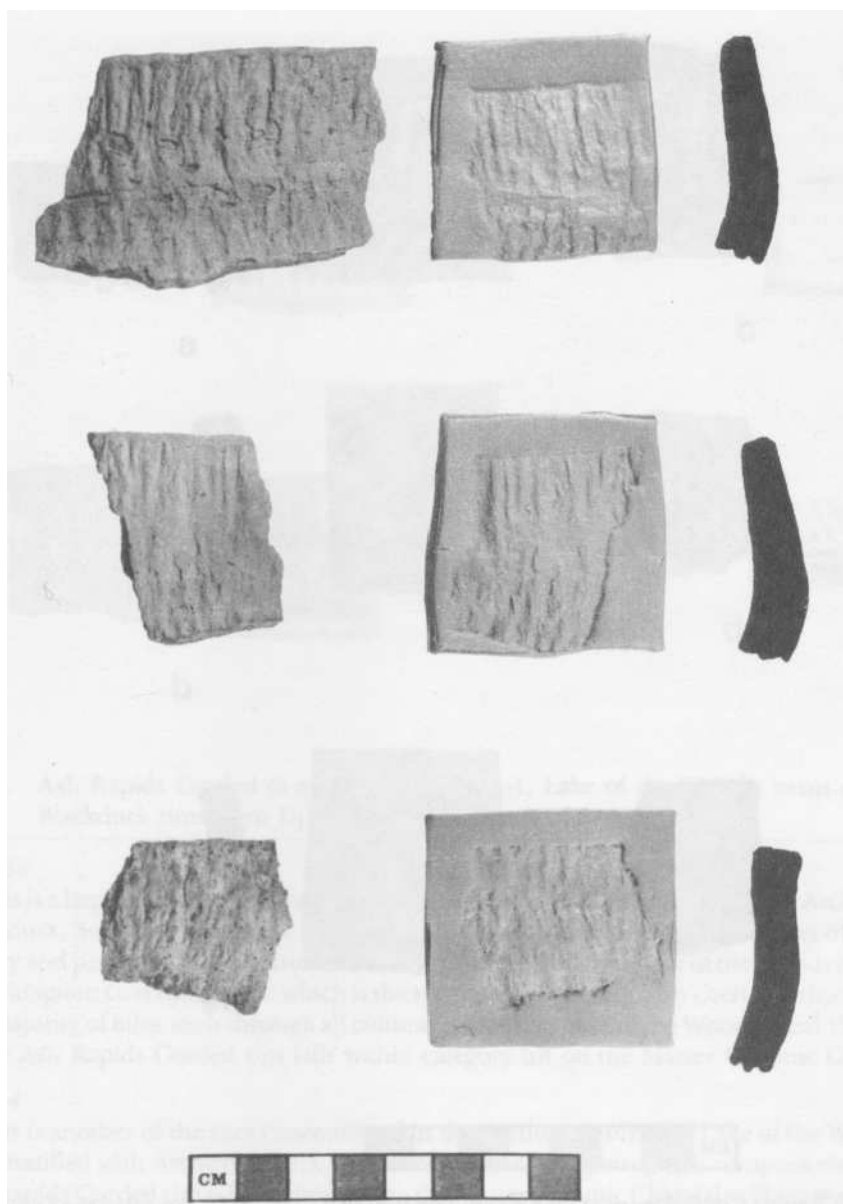


Fig. 3 Ash Rapids Corded from DjKp-3, Lake of the Woods.

Reid 1977: 15,1978). One vessel was excavated in context on this site and is fully discussed under the *Excavated Vessels* section below, and the remaining three vessels fall into categories aC, bB and cB on the Master Ceramic Chart (the excavated vessel is aB).

DiKm-20

This two-component site is mostly Archaic and is currently under analysis for a Ph. D. dissertation by R. D. Wall, formerly of Northwestern Region staff. A single Ash Rapids Corded rim sherd and two corded body sherds comprise the entire Woodland sample and *may* all be from one vessel. The vessel is in a category bA on the Master Ceramic Chart.

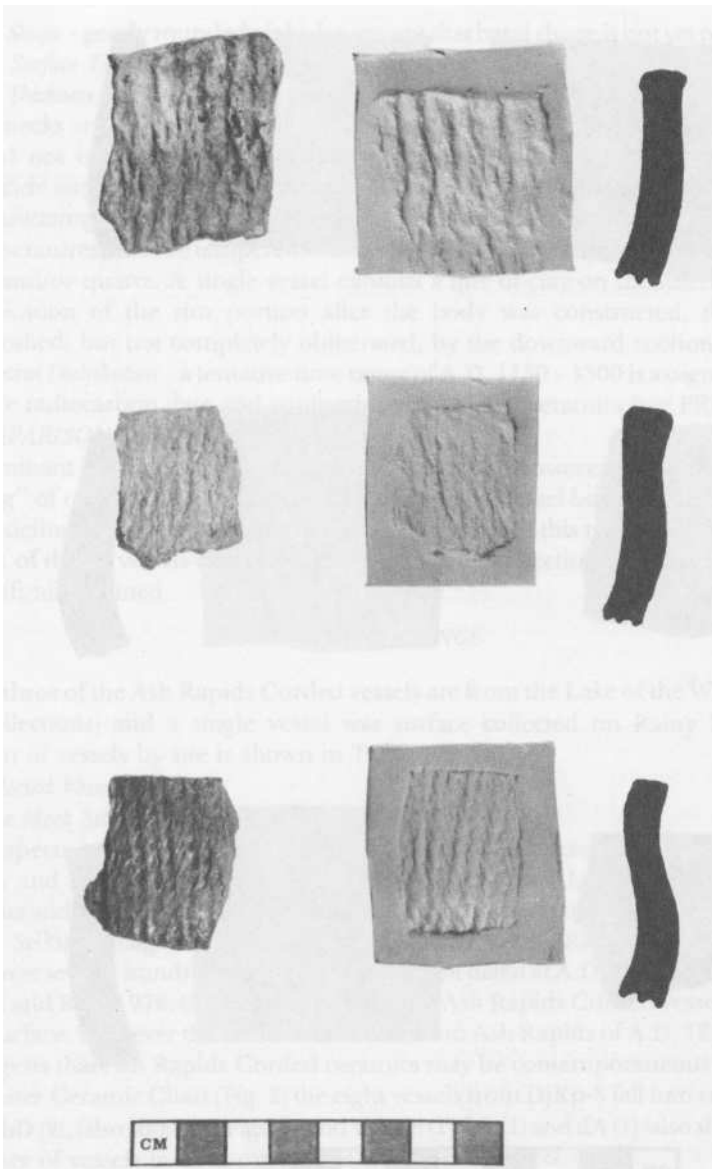


Fig. 4 Ash Rapids Corded from a: DkKr-4; b: DjKp-3; and c: Muriel Lake; all in the Lake of the Woods area.

DiKm-27

This site contains Blackduck rim sherds, one rim with very loose cord-wrapped stick decoration which exhibits coil breaks, corded body sherds, and the single Ash Rapids Corded rim which falls in category aD on the Master Chart.

DiKm-28

This is a two-component site containing Laurel and Late Woodland materials, the latter consisting solely of corded body sherds and a single Ash Rapids Corded rim - thus the entire Late Woodland component may be Ash Rapids Corded. The vessel is in a Category aF on the Master Ceramic Chart.

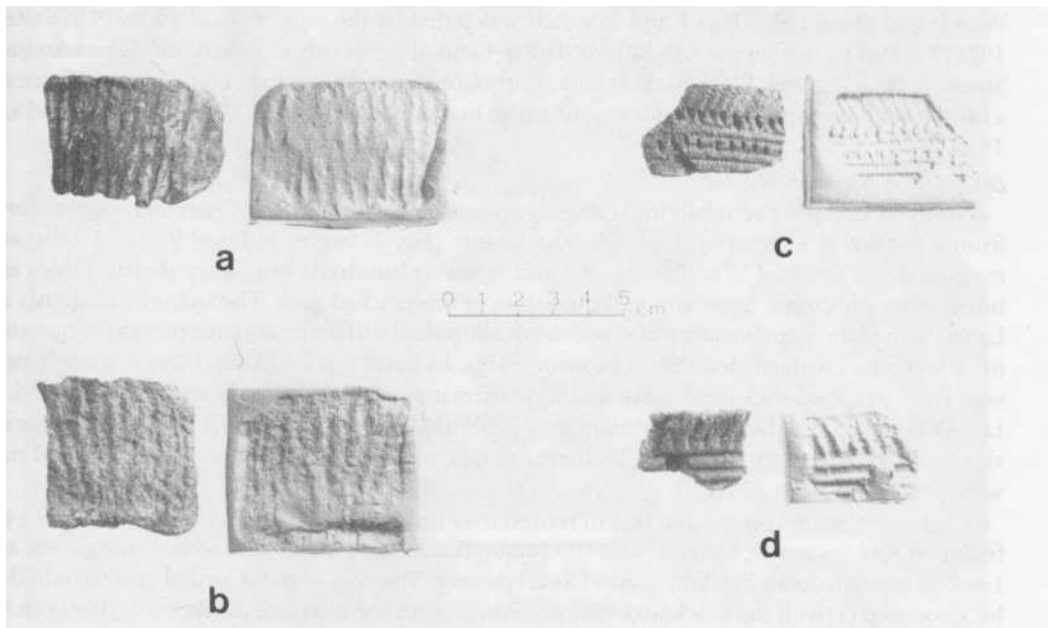


Fig. 5. Ash Rapids Corded (a and b) from DjKq-1, Lake of the Woods; items c and d are Blackduck rims from DjKq-1 (photo courtesy of S. A. Smith).

DjKr-16

This is a large stratified site containing Plains Archaic (McKean), *possible* Shield Archaic, Laurel, Blackduck, Selkirk and Historic components. It is one of a large concentration of habitation, quarry and petroglyph sites clustered in the northwest corner of Lake of the Woods in the area of the Wabigoon Greenstone Belt which is the source of the good quality chert and rhyolite used for the majority of lithic tools through all cultural periods on Lake of the Woods (Reid 1977: 19). The single Ash Rapids Corded rim falls within category bB on the Master Ceramic Chart.

DkKr-4

This is another of the sites concentrated in the northwest corner of Lake of the Woods and is also stratified with Archaic, Selkirk, *possible* Blackduck, and petroglyph components. The single Ash Rapids Corded rim is in category aE on the Master Ceramic Chart (also illustrated in Fig. 4a).

Muriel Lake

This site (not yet assigned a Borden number prior to testing) contains a possible Archaic component and a Selkirk component, and a single plain rim sherd *may* indicate a Laurel component. The single Ash Rapids Corded vessel falls into category aC on the Master Ceramic Chart (also illustrated in Fig. 4c).

DeKi-6

This is a Blackduck site which yielded a classic Blackduck rim, corded body sherds and fabric-impressed body sherds in addition to the single Ash Rapids corded rim which falls into category aG on the Master Ceramic Chart.

Excavated Vessels

The three excavated vessels are from the Ash Rapids site complex at the juncture of Lake of the Woods and Shoal Lake (Figs 1 and 6) which was tested by the authors in 1975 and 1976 (Reid 1977, 1978). The two sites at Ash Rapids (DjKq-4 and 5) are deeply stratified with Plains Archaic, Shield Archaic, Laurel, Blackduck, Selkirk, Early Contact and Fur Trade components. There are a further nine sites spanning the same time range in Ash Bay (Dj Kq-6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 18).

DjKq-4 (Ash Rapids East Site)

The excavated rim sherd falls into category aB on the Master Ceramic Chart and was recovered from a feature in Excavation Unit 3A. The feature (Fig. 7) begins at Level V (12 - 15 cm) and extends down to Level VIII (21 - 24 cm) and contains hundreds of pottery sherds, lithics and burnt bone with some red ochre and quantities of fire-cracked rock. The majority of sherds are Laurel with plain, dentate stamp and pseudo-scallop shell surface treatments present in quantity in all levels and with corded sherds in some levels. In Level V (12 - 15 cm) there is a single neck with cord-wrapped stick decoration and approximately 10% of the body sherds are corded; in Level VI (15 - 18 cm) there are approximately 5% corded sherds; in Level VII (18 - 21 cm) there is a single corded sherd; and in Level VIII there are no corded sherds. The Ash Rapids Corded rims were recovered from Level VI.

The feature is interpreted as a hearth reused over time. Of the four levels excavated above the feature, Level I is sterile, Levels II and III contain Blackduck pottery with some trade goods, and Level IV contains both Blackduck and Laurel pottery. The Ash Rapids Corded vessel could thus be associated (1) with the Blackduck component, (2) with the interface (if one exists) between the Blackduck and Laurel components, or (3) with the Laurel component.

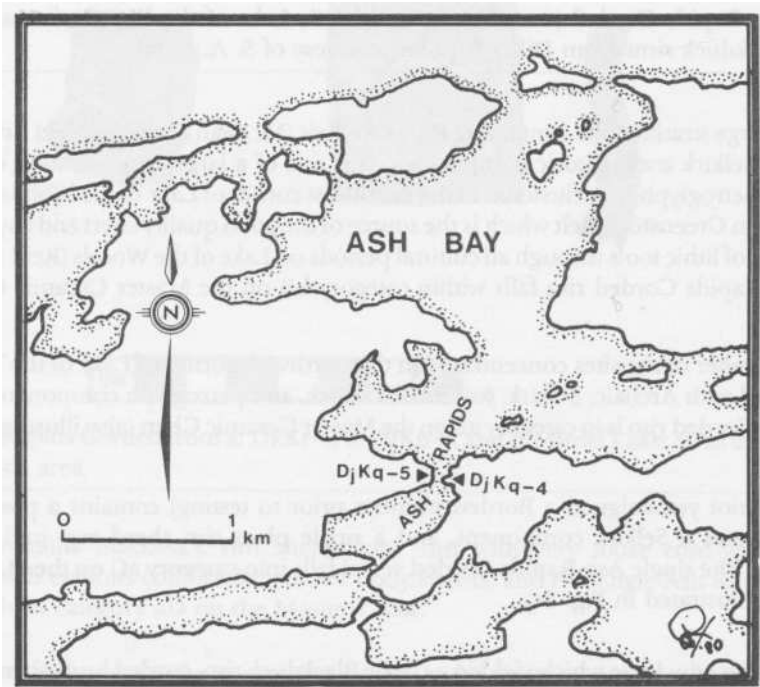


Fig. 6. The Ash Rapids site complex.



Fig. 7. Hearth feature at Ash Rapids East Site (DjKq-4), Area A, Excavation Unit 3, Level VI (15 - 18 cm).

DjKq-5 (Ash Rapids West Site)

The two vessels excavated (Fig. 8) fall into category aA on the Master Ceramic Chart and were recovered from a feature in Excavation Units 6 to 9 inclusive. Sherds from the vessel shown at Fig. 8a were spread over Units 6 and 7 in Levels III - IV (6 - 12 cm), and those of the second vessel were recovered from Units 7 and 8 in Level III (6 - 9 cm). The feature is a hearth containing fire-cracked rock, burnt bone, lithics and ceramics. The ceramics are Selkirk (Alexander Fabric Impressed), Blackduck and Laurel, with Laurel increasing in frequency in Level IV (9 - 12 cm) and Laurel becoming an almost pure stratum in Level V (12 - 15cm) below feature. A piece of charred wood from within the hearth feature at a depth of 11 cm has been radiocarbon dated at A.D. 1230 ± 125 (DIC- 569).

Provenience Associations

Although the majority of vessels are from surface collections, some speculation as to temporal trends is still possible. On the nine sites yielding surface samples only, one may be exclusively Ash Rapids Corded (DiKm - 20); of the remaining eight, six Kp-3, DjKq - 1, DiKm - 27, DiKm - 28, DjKr-16 and Muriel Lake) possess identified or probable Laurel components, six contain identified or probable Blackduck components, and five contain identified Selkirk components (Table 2). Since Blackduck and Selkirk are now known to have been contemporaneous on Lake of the Woods (Reid 1977; Rajnovich and Reid 1978) and possibly also in adjacent areas such as Red Lake to the north (Koezur and Wright 1976: 22), it can be hypothesized that Ash Rapids Corded falls within a time period at the latter end of the Laurel occupations of the area and the beginning of a Selkirk/Blackduck occupation.



Fig. 8 Ash Rapids Corded excavated from the Ash Rapids West Site (DjKq-5).

TABLE 2
ASSOCIATIONS OF SURFACE-COLLECTED ASH RAPIDS CORDED VESSELS

Site	Identified Components	Possible components, associations, remarks
DjKp-3	Laurel Selkirk	Blackduck a minor component
DjKq-1	Blackduck Laurel Selkirk	Blackduck a minor component
DiKm-20	Blackduck Late Woodland	ARC rim and 2 corded body sherds only
DiKm-27	Laurel ? Blackduck	Coil breaks on corded sherds ("transitional")
DiKm-28	Laurel	ARC rim and 2 corded body sherds are only other ceramics
DjKr-16	Laurel Blackduck Selkirk	
DkKr-4	Selkirk Blackduck ?	No diagnostic Blackduck rims
Muriel Lake	Laurel ? Selkirk	one plain rim is sole Laurel evidence
DeKi-6	Blackduck	

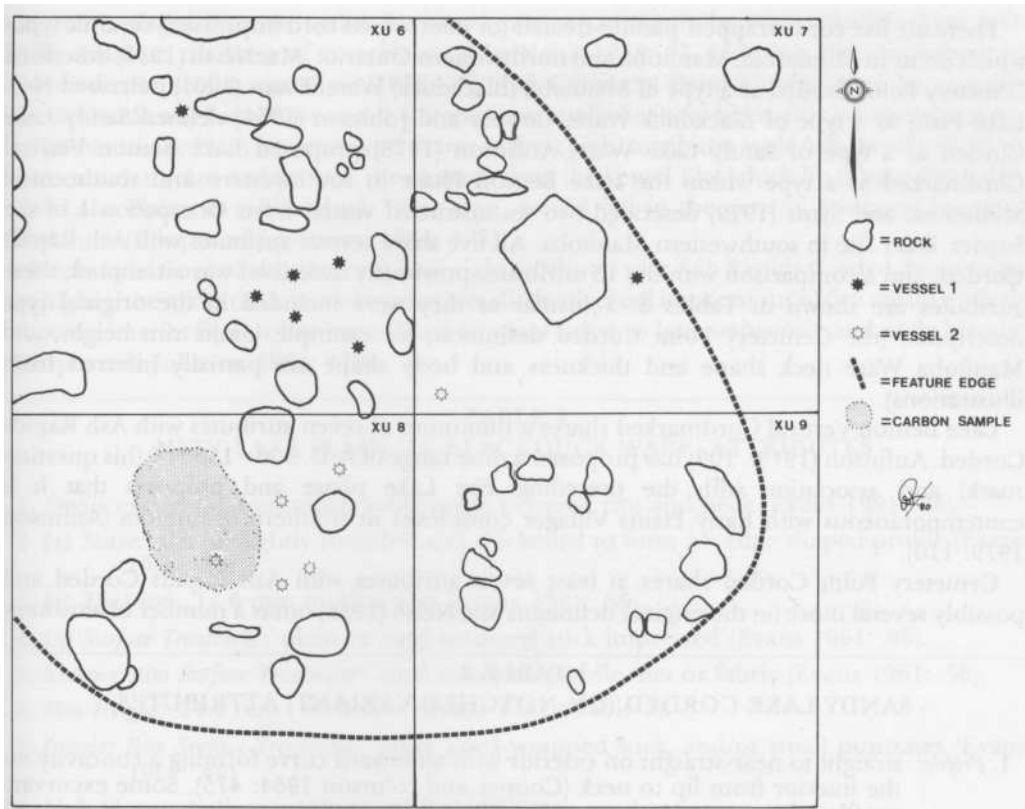


Fig. 9. Hearth feature at Ash Rapids West Site (DjKq-5), Excavation Units 6 - 9 (one metre squares), Levels III - IV (6 - 12 cm) showing vessel and carbon sample locations.

This hypothesis is reinforced by the provenience of the excavated Ash Rapids Corded vessels. All three are from undisturbed features which contain a strong Laurel element, and all are from strata which wholly or partially interface with Selkirk and/or Blackduck strata. In addition there is no evidence of contamination of the charcoal sample from the DjKq-5 hearth feature (the strata above and below are free of all signs of forest fire), making the A.D. 1230 ± 125 date a further reinforcement of this hypothesis.

COMPARISONS

The attributes of the proposed Ash Rapids Corded type place it outside the definitions of the more common Middle and Late Woodland ceramics hitherto described for the area. The rim profiles, exterior cording and laminated construction distinguish it from Laurel ceramics as described by Wright (1967) and Stoltman (1973). The rim-neck profiles, lack of cord-wrapped stick decoration and non-thickened lips exclude it from Blackduck ceramics as described by Evans (1961) and MacNeish (1958), with the possible exceptions of Evans' Nett Lake Plain type and MacNeish's Cemetery Point Corded type which are further discussed below. The complete lack of fabric impressions exclude Ash Rapids Corded from Selkirk ceramics as defined by MacNeish (1958) and Hlady (1970).

There are five cord-wrapped-paddle-treated (or intertwined cord impressed) ceramic types which occur in Minnesota, Manitoba and northwestern Ontario: MacNeish (1958) described Cemetery Point Corded as a type of Manitoba (Blackduck) Ware; Evans (1961) described Nett Lake Plain as a type of Blackduck Ware; Cooper and Johnson (1964) defined Sandy Lake Corded as a type of Sandy Lake Ware; Anfinson (1979) proposed Lake Benton Vertical Cordmarked as a type within the Lake Benton Phase in southwestern and southcentral Minnesota; and Syms (1979) described two reconstructed vessels from Occupation 1 of the Snyder Dam Site in southwestern Manitoba. All five share several attributes with Ash Rapids Corded, and a comparison with the 15 attributes previously described was attempted; these attributes are shown in Tables 3 - 7 insofar as they were included in the original type description (the Cemetery Point Corded definition, for example, omits rim height, and Manitoba Ware neck shape and thickness and body shape are partially inferred from illustrations).

Lake Benton Vertical Cordmarked shares a minimum of seven attributes with Ash Rapids Corded. Anfinson (1979: 109) has proposed a time range of A. D. 900 - 1500 (?) (his question mark) and association with the preceding Fox Lake phase and proposes that it is contemporaneous with Early Plains Villager complexes in southern Minnesota (Anfinson 1979: 110).

Cemetery Point Corded shares at least seven attributes with Ash Rapids Corded and possibly several more (in the original definition MacNeish (1958) omits a number of attributes).

TABLE 3
SANDY LAKE CORDED (UN-NOTCHED VARIANT) ATTRIBUTES

1. *Profile*: straight to near-straight on exterior with an inward curve forming a concavity on the interior from lip to neck (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 475). Some excurvate profiles also occur (Arthurs 1978: 62). All have obtuse angle between rim and neck.
2. *Lip Shape*: rounded (Birk 1977: 12) or flat (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 475). Occasional lipping (Birk 1977: 11), but not thickened.
3. *Lip Thickness*: mean 5.0 mm (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 475).
4. *Lip Surface Treatment*: plain with occasional interior notches (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 475) or cord-wrapped paddle (Birk 1977: 25-26).
5. *Exterior Rim Surface Treatment*: cord-wrapped paddle (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 476).
6. *Rim Height*: approximately 30-35 mm (D. Arthurs, personal communication).
7. *Interior Rim Surface Treatment*: plain, occasional interior punctates (Cooper and Johnson 1964: Fig. 2).
8. *Neck Shape*: interior neck/shoulder area noticeably thickened while exterior is a straighter more poorly defined juncture (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 475).
9. *Neck Surface Treatment*: cord-wrapped paddle, occasional exterior punctates (Arthurs 1978: 59).
10. *Neck Thickness*: mean 5.8 mm (Arthurs 1978: 63).
11. *Body Shape*: squat, globular, rounded base, poorly defined shoulders (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 477).
12. *Body Surface Treatment*: cord-wrapped paddle (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 475).
13. *Body Thickness*: mean 4.9 mm (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 475).
14. *Manufacturing Characteristics*: laminated, grit or shell temper (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 475).
15. *Temporal Distribution*: late prehistoric to early historic (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 479).

MacNeish placed this type within his broad category of Manitoba Ware (Blackduck) at A.D. 1350 - 1500 on the basis of associations (MacNeish 1958: 67, 162). We have hypothesized elsewhere (Rajnovich and Reid 1978: 46) that Cemetery Point Corded may be virtually identical to Sandy Lake Ware and that it may eventually be included in that ceramic category.

The Nett Lake Plain ceramic type shares at least eight attributes with Ash Rapids Corded, but is much thicker and possess the characteristic thickened Blackduck lip (Evans 1961: 36). Nett Lake Plain, as a Blackduck Ware type, would fall in the general temporal range of Blackduck (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 478).

Sandy Lake Corded also shares at least eight attributes with Ash Rapids Corded, but its rims are higher, the necks thicker, and it possesses distinctive tool impressions which create scallops on some interior lips. It has been dated by association to late prehistoric and early historic (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 479).

TABLE 4
NETT LAKE PLAIN (IN BLACKDUCK WARE) ATTRIBUTES

1. *Profile*: excurvate, outflaring, acute angle between rim and neck (Evans 1961: 36).
2. *Lip Shape*: flat to slightly rounded and thickened to form a wedge shaped profile (Evans 1961: 56).
3. *Lip Thickness*: 11.6 mm to 12.6 mm (Evans 1961: 36).
4. *Lip Surface Treatment*: plain or cord-wrapped stick impressed (Evans 1961: 36).
5. *Exterior Rim Surface Treatment*: cord-wrapped paddle, net or fabric (Evans 1961: 56).
6. *Rim Height*: 24.0 mm - 68.0 mm (Evans 1961: Table 3).
7. *Interior Rim Surface Treatment*: plain, cord-wrapped stick, and/or small punctates (Evans 1961: 49).
8. *Neck Shape*: gently curved (Evans 1961: 36).
9. *Neck Surface Treatment*: cord-wrapped paddle, net or fabric (Evans 1961: 56).
10. *Neck Thickness*: mean 9.6 mm (Evans 1961: 39 and 56).
11. *Body Shape*: globular with rounded shoulders (Evans 1961: 36).
12. *Body Surface Treatment*: cord-wrapped paddle, net or fabric (Evans 1961: 56).
13. *Body Thickness*: mean 9.6 mm (Evans 1961:56)
14. *Manufacturing characteristics*: laminated, coarse grit temper (Evans:1961: 56).
15. *Temporal Distribution*: earliest C14 date A.D. 798 ± 120 (Cooper and Johnson 1964: 478) latest A.D. 1690 ± 225 (Rajnovich and Reid 1978: 48).

During the Selkirk Ceramics Symposium sponsored by the Association of Manitoba Archaeologists in 1977 in Winnipeg, Dr. E. Leigh Syms of Brandon University suggested to the authors that Ash Rapids Corded could be related to his ceramics from the Snyder Dam Site in southwestern Manitoba and generously provided much of his data (Syms, personal communication, 18th May, 1978). This data is now published (Syms 1979) and the materials from his Occupation 1 (Table 6) share at least eight and possibly ten attributes with Ash Rapids Corded. Svms obtained three radiocarbon dates for Occupation 1 and a weighted mean radiocarbon date of A.D. 859 - 1015 at 95% probability (Syms 1979: 54); he notes that "Occupation 1 must remain an isolated component among a multitude of poorly understood typological categories on the Plains" (Svms 1979: 62).

TABLE 5
CEMETERY POINT CORDED (OF MANITOBA CORDED WARE) ATTRIBUTES

1. *Profile*: vertical to outflaring, occasional incipient collars.
2. *Lip Shape*: flat, unthickened.
3. *Lip Thickness*: not defined.
4. *Lip Surface Treatment*: cord-wrapped paddle, cord-wrapped paddle edge, or notched.
5. *Exterior Rim Surface Treatment*: cord-wrapped paddle, occasional punctates.
6. *Rim Height*: not defined.
7. *Interior Rim Surface Treatment*: occasional punctates.
8. *Neck Shape*: not defined.
9. *Neck Surface Treatment*: cord-wrapped paddle.
10. *Neck Thickness*: not defined.
11. *Body Shape*: globular, round bases, shoulders not defined.
12. *Body Surface Treatment*: cord-wrapped paddle.
13. *Body Thickness*: not defined.
14. *Manufacturing characteristics*: laminated, granite/mica/feldspar/quartz temper.
15. *Temporal distribution*: A.D. 1350 - 1500 (MacNeish 1958: 67, 156 - 162).

TABLE 6
SNYDER DAM VESSELS 1 and 2 ATTRIBUTES

1. *Profile*: slight neck curvature outwards, slight neck constriction forming obtuse angle between rim and shoulder, unthickened lip, marked thickening of rounded basal areal on a conoidal vessel.
2. *Lip Shape*: flat.
3. *Lip Thickness*: approximately 13.0 mm.
4. *Lip Surface Treatment*: plain, or deep narrow U-shaped notches oriented obliquely on the lip exterior.
5. *Exterior Rim Surface Treatment*: vertical textile impressed.
6. *Rim Height*: (not given).
7. *Interior Rim Surface Treatment*: plain.
8. *Neck Shape*: gently curved.
9. *Neck Surface Treatment*: vertical textile impressed.
10. *Neck Thickness*: 5.0 - 7.0 mm; 10.5 mm.
11. *Body Shape*: conoidal with rounded base.
12. *Body Surface Treatment*: vertical textile impressed.
13. *Body Thickness*: 8.0 - 11.5 mm; 6.8 - 9.0 mm.
14. *Manufacturing characteristics*: variable firing with coarse granite temper.
15. *Temporal Distribution*: A.D. 937 ± 78. (Syms 1979: 47-49, 54).

TABLE 7
LAKE BENTON VERTICAL CORD MARKED ATTRIBUTES

1. *Profile*: vertical to slightly outflaring, parallel sided.
2. *Lip Shape*: flat to slightly rounded.
3. *Lip Thickness*: NOTE - a single thickness range of 4.0 - 8.0 mm for the entire vessel is given; vessels are of relatively uniform thickness throughout.
4. *Lip Surface Treatment*: not given, plain implied.
5. *Exterior Rim Surface Treatment*: vertical and occasionally oblique cordmarking.
6. *Rim Height*: (not given).
7. *Interior Rim Surface Treatment*: plain, occasional cord-wrapped stick impressions implied ("usually lacks...").
8. *Neck Shape*: moderately constricted.
9. *Neck Surface Treatment*: vertical and occasionally oblique cordmarking.
10. *Neck Thickness*: (not given, but see 3. above).
11. *Body Shape*: rounded with conoidal base.
12. *Body Surface Treatment*: vertical and occasionally oblique cordmarking.
13. *Body Thickness*: 4.0 - 8.0 mm.
14. *Manufacturing Characteristics*: grit temper, well-fired.
15. *Temporal Distribution*: A.D. 900 - 1500 (?), single radiocarbon date of A.D. 1245 ± 80. (Anfinson 1979: 109 - 112).

TABLE 8
CAMBRIDGE PLAIN LIP (OF CAMBRIDGE WARE) ATTRIBUTES

1. *Profile*: straight to slightly outslipping (Sigstad 1969: 18).
2. *Lip Shape*: flattened to rounded (Sigstad 1969: 18).
3. *Lip Thickness*: mean 4.0 mm (Sigstad 1969: 18).
4. *Lip Surface Treatment*: plain, but there is a Cambridge Tool-Imprinted Lip sub-type (Sigstad 1969: 18-19).
5. *Exterior Rim Surface Treatment*: vertical cord-wrapped paddle (Sigstad 1969: Plate 3 1-n, t-u).
6. *Rim Height*: 8.0 mm - 23.0 mm (Sigstad 1969: 18).
7. *Interior Rim Surface Treatment*: not defined.
8. *Neck Shape*: gently curved (Sigstad 1969: 22).
9. *Neck Surface Treatment*: vertical cord-wrapped paddle (Sigstad 1969: Plate 3).
10. *Neck Thickness*: mean 6.0 mm (Sigstad 1969: 18).
11. *Body Shape*: globular, smoothly curved shoulders (Sigstad 1969: 18).
12. *Body Surface Treatment*: vertical cord-wrapped paddle (Sigstad 1969: Plate 3).
13. *Body Thickness*: 5.0 mm (Sigstad 1969: 18).
14. *Manufacturing characteristics*: laminated, coarse sand temper (Sigstad 1969: 17).
15. *Temporal Distribution*: 12th Century (Wood 1969: 14).

Since the Snyder Dam and Lake Benton ceramics appear to have Plains connections or influences, and since previous research in the Lake of the Woods area had defined a strong Plains influence for all cultural components from Plano through Woodland (Reid 1977), an examination of published sites from the Plains was undertaken and three ceramic types recognized as sharing attributes with Ash Rapids Corded. The first two, Anderson Everted type of Cable Ware from South Dakota dating to the 12th and 13th Centuries A.D. (Wood 1969: 14) and Talking Crow Straight from North Dakota dating approximately A.D. 1550 - 1650 (Woolworth and Wood 1964: 92, 135) share a number of attributes with Ash Rapids Corded. A connection between the three would be tenuous, however, if the two Plains types were not related in time and space to a third type, Cambridge Ware (Caldwell and Jensen 1969; Sigstad 1969; Woolworth and Wood 1964; Wood 1969), from the central Plains and dating to the 12th century. Cambridge Ware attributes are presented in Table 8, and are of particular interest since at least 12 attributes are shared with Ash Rapids Corded.

DISCUSSION

Some discussion has already been presented above under *Provenience Associations* and in the introductory paragraph of *COMPARISONS*. The receipt of two almost diametrically opposed reviewer's assessments of a preliminary version of this paper posed somewhat of a dilemma. One reviewer lauded "an excellent manuscript that provided a new standard for definitive typological presentation" while a second chided the "adding (of) another formal type to the literature" and thought that the vessels were an "unidentified residue." Since we both are strong advocates of attribute analysis (as the second reviewer obviously was) but had originally labelled Ash Rapids Corded a type in the title and throughout the text, we have removed the word "type." Problems remain, however, in that in any attribute analysis significant groupings of attributes have meanings for the interpretation of cultural process and for this reason "labels" are often necessary, so the phrase "Ash Rapids Corded" has been retained for convenience especially as attribute lists and a Master Ceramic Chart coupled with plates which include profiles and plasticene impressions are presented so that other researchers have sufficient data to re-analyse the materials. This, we hope, will answer Michael E. Smith's (1979) cry in the wilderness "A Further Criticism of the Type-Variety System: The Data Can't be Used."

The question of "unidentified residue" is more serious. Stoltman (1973: 77) used the term for ceramics from a single site and Lugenbeal (1976: 455-6) reanalysed the rather large sample and assigned them to types, believing, as the authors do, that "unidentified residue" is not the proper term for ceramics which exhibit spatial and temporal significance. Important features of the Lake of the Woods/Rainy Lake items are their re-occurrence at a large number of sites, their spatial discreteness, and their probable temporal span, all three of which are significant attributes rather than characteristics of "unidentified residue."

CONCLUSIONS

It is hypothesized that Ash Rapids Corded ceramics form part of a wide-spread transition from Middle Woodland to Late Woodland in the Lake of the Woods/Rainy Lake area in particular and the Plains/Shield interface in general; that Ash Rapids Corded has connections or associations with late Middle Woodland/early Late Woodland ceramics in neighbouring Minnesota and Manitoba and probably with some ceramics on the Central Plains; and that Ash Rapids Corded has a temporal range of A.D. 1150 - 1300. A direct link to Selkirk and Blackduck cultures in their formative stages is not ruled out.

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Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation
 P.O. Box 2880
 Kenora, Ontario P9N 3X8