Early African-American Pottery in South Carolina: A Complicated Plainware

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Abstract
This unpublished symposium paper presents ideas on possible uses of colonoware inspired by ethnoarchaeological research in Sierra Leone in 1991 and 1993. An earlier version of this paper was presented in the Symposium Can't We Just Throw It Away? Approaches to Plain Pottery. 63rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, March 25-29, 1998, Seattle, Washington. The author is a Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina.

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Dave the Potter was an important American ceramist, who worked in the Edgefield potteries of South Carolina, first as a slave, then as a free man. Born in 1800, Dave probably began working in the potteries in his late teens, learning his trade from the European-American potters. The earliest pottery vessels which bear attributes of Dave's later pots date to the 1820s and were made in the Pottersville workshop. He apparently worked for Abner Landrum's newspaper "The Edgefield Hive" (sometimes listed as "The Columbia Hive"), where some scholars believe he learned to read and write. Others believe it is more likely he learned from his owner Reuben Drake.

One More Look into the Water -- Colonoware in South Carolina Rivers and Charleston's Market Economy. Early African-American Pottery in South Carolina: A Complicated Plainware. African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter, Dec 2007. 63rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, March 25-29, 1998, Seattle, Washington. The author is a Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina. Dave the Potter was an important American ceramicist, who worked in the Edgefield potteries of South Carolina, first as a slave, then as a free man. Born in 1800, Dave probably began working in the potteries in his late teens, learning his trade from the European-American potters. The earliest pottery vessels which bear attributes of Dave's later pots date to the 1820s and were made in the Pottersville workshop. He apparently worked for Abner Landrum's newspaper "The Edgefield Hive" (sometimes listed as "The Columbia Hive"), where some scholars believe he learned to read and write. Others believe it is more likely he learned from his owner Reuben Drake.