

FROMCERAMICSTOCULTURE:STUDIESINTHEFINAL
STONEAGEGAJIGANNACOMPLEXOFNE-NIGERIA

PeterBreunig(1),AbubakarGarba(2),MusaHambolu (3)

Introduction

Inthecourseofsystematicarchaeologicalsurveys andexcavationscarriedoutsince1990,intheSand andclayplainsSouthand SouthwestofLakeChad,ourteamdiscoveredabout1 50archaeologicalsites(fig.1)relatedbyceramic ssimilarinshape,decoration andtechniquesofmanufacture.Analysisofexcavate dassemblagesandsetofradiocarbonateshavesho wnthatthispotterybelongs toatraditionlastingforabout1000yearsstartin gintheearlySecondMillenniumBCuntiltheearly FirstMillenniumBC.According toWENDT(1997)thetraditioncanbedividedintot wophases(IandII)withasubdivisionofPhaseII intothreestages(a,bandc). Radiocarbonatescannotprovidetheprecisetimeo fstylisticchange,buttheapproximatedurationof thephasesisindicatedbya clusteringofdatesasfollows:PhaseI:1800-140 0calBC,PhaseIIa:1500-1200calBC,PhaseIIb: 1200-1000calBC,PhaseIIc: 1000-800calBC(4).

Thispottery,perfectlycoatedbyafineredSlipe ngenderingabeautifulshining,madeinawaytore sistevenanopenairforcenturies (fig.2).Itiswellfired,andcarefullydecorated byincisionsandimpressions,arrangedinpatterns ,whichhadbeenmadetotellmore thanwecanunderstandtoday.Thequalityhasnever beenachievedinsubsequenttimesuptilldate.In largequantitiesthispottery suddenlyappearedintheChadBasinaround1800bef oreChrist-inafinalstageoftheStoneAge-gi vingevidenceofthefirsthuman occupationaftertheretreatofMega-Chad.Withint hecourseofaboutonemillennium,thepotterychan gedinmanyaspectsbutthe wholecomplexclearlybelongstooneandthesamet radition. Thispaperintendstoshowanexampleofhowthis pecificpotterystartedtotellastoryaboutpeopl ecolonisingthesouthwestern ChadBasinabout4000yearsago.

1UniversitätFrankfurt,SeminarfürVor-undFrüh geschichte(ArchäologieundArchäobotanikAfrikas).

2UniversityofMaiduguri,CentreforTrans-Saharan Studies,Nigeria.

3NationalMuseum,Maiduguri,Nigeria.

4Allmentioneddatesandradiocarbonmeasurements refertocalibratedagescalculatedaccordingtoCal ibrationProgram1993Rev.3.0.QuaternaryIsotope Lab, UniversityofWashington.