

Gallinazo period the Huancaco (Mochica) decorated wares begin to appear.

The designs of Castillo White, Red, Orange are very different from Puerto Moorin White-on-Red (Salinar culture) and probably did not develop out of this earlier white-on-red decorated ware. The Castillo White, Red, Orange decoration also bears little resemblance to the later Huancaco decorated types, which succeed those of Gallinazo times. The source for Castillo White, Red, Orange, therefore, should probably be sought somewhere outside of the Virú Valley. Castillo White, Red, Orange comes into the Virú Valley at approximately the same time and in approximately the same small amounts as the Callejon-like or Recuay specimens. The source of the influence which produced Castillo White, Red, Orange may well be the same as that apparently producing the Callejon or

belongs to the Late Gallinazo period and is evidence of a new influence (possibly from the Mochica culture slightly to the north) in the Virú Valley. Larco⁵ shows a similar vessel. He does not attempt to place it chronologically except to say that "no es Cupisnique."

In addition to these early period tripods we also have a post-Expansionist form not illustrated for the North Coast by Mr. King. We actually have three examples of such tripods, none of which are the open bowl form. The three vessels are from later period burials at the Huaca Negra site. They are all polished blackware. Two, from the same grave, are globular bodied jars with medium to tall slightly outflaring necks (Fig. 110, *c, d*). They have solid pointed conical legs. The other vessel from another grave at Huaca Negra, is a squat, ovoid jar with a medium tall, straight neck (Fig. 110, *b*). It has short, solid conical legs.

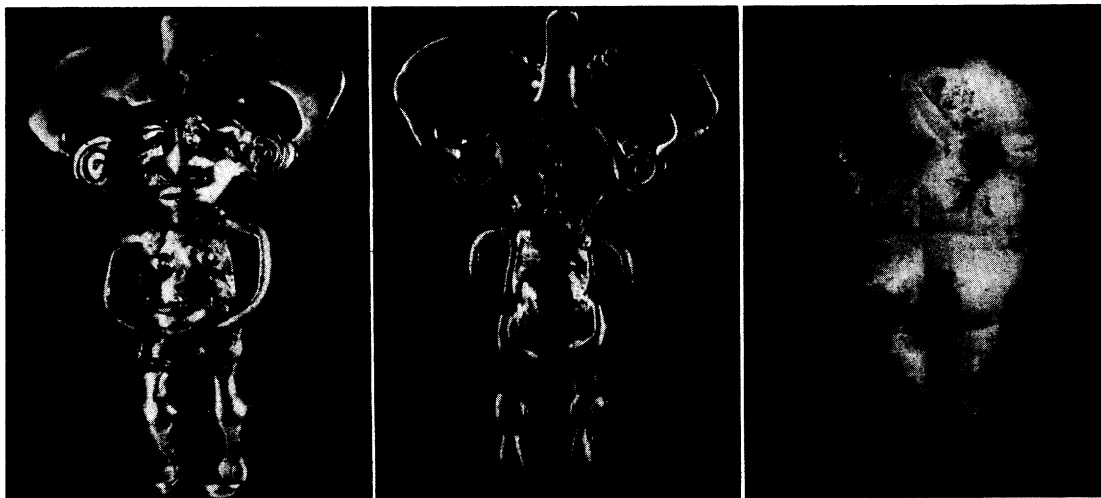


FIG. 111. Figurines of gold (*left, center*) and stone (*right*) from Yaguajay, Banes, Cuba. (Orencio Miguel collection.)

Recuay wares, i.e., the North Highlands of Peru. This would make the legged form pre-Expansionist in the North Highlands, something already suspected by Mr. King.

Another interesting vessel type was found by the Columbia University Expedition in a burial at the Gallinazo site. This vessel, however, may not be strictly considered a tetrapod vessel, for the four legs are part of the modeled form itself rather than separate and distinct units for support. It is a strirrup-spout bottle modeled in the form of a fruit (probably representing a pepino) with four curling legs on the bottom (Fig. 110, *a*). The vessel was found associated with a Carmelo Negative vessel (corn-popper shape) and a plain-ware jar which places the tomb in the Gallinazo period. Rebecca Carrion Cachot,³ uses this same vessel as an illustration of the Chavin type in the Virú Valley. Bennett,⁴ however, believes that it

³ Rebecca Carrion Cachot, "La cultura Chavin," *Revista del Museo Nacional de Antropología y Arqueología*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 99-172, 1948.

⁴ Wendell C. Bennett, "The Gallinazo Group, Virú Valley, Peru," *Yale University Publications in Anthropology*, No. 43, in press.

The late Virú tripods are most like the ones illustrated by Mr. King for the North Highlands and the Central Coast, but the latter do not seem to have the distinctly taller necks typical of the Virú tripod jars.

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⁵ Rafael Larco Hoyle, *Los Cupisniques*, p. 15, lower right hand plate, 1945.

DISCOVERY OF A PRE-COLUMBIAN GOLD FIGURINE IN CUBA*

The hills of the *barrio* of Yaguajay in the municipality of Banes, Cuba have yielded a number of rich finds of archaeological material.¹ To these was added in 1948 a

* Paper delivered at the Seventh National Congress of History, Santiago de Cuba, in November, 1948.

¹ Several of these were reported by us at the Sixth National Congress of History in Trinidad, Cuba: *Descubrimiento y excavación de un montículo funeral en el potrero "El Porvenir"* and *Objetos raros de la cultura Taíno en*

gold figurine, which is of importance as the first such specimen to be reported from the Antilles.

The figurine measures 48 mm. in height, weighs 14.1 grams, and has been cast from 10-carat gold (Fig. 111, *left*.) It portrays a naked woman, standing and holding a small vessel at the height of the stomach. The head is adorned with three stylized tufts of feathers, and two disks project from the ears in the form of shell helices. The face, nose, eyes, and mouth are very similar to those of the clay, shell, bone, and stone figures of the Banes region (e.g., Fig. 111, *right*). The two breasts stand out from the body and the legs are in the form of nodules; although provided with feet, they lack toes.

In the rear (Fig. 111, *center*) can be seen traces of casting, as well as depressions and imperfections which indicate that the artisan carefully finished only the front of the specimen. There are remnants of a ring at the height of the neck, through which a cord for suspension of the figure was undoubtedly passed.

The figurine was found by itself in a yard near the rural school at the village of Santana. While it did not lie in refuse of habitation, potsherds and several petaloid stone celts have been obtained on the surface of the ground in the vicinity. Indeed, the whole area of Yaguajay is covered with such remains, some of which have been eroded from the refuse deposits as a result of the torrential rainfall while others have been plowed out. The figurine was in the very middle of the Yaguajay area, with the important village sites of El Porvenir and Cerro de Yaguajay 300 meters to the east and to the west respectively.²

Some years ago, a stone figurine was found at a higher elevation about 200 meters to the southwest in fields near the house of Sr. F. Cordovés V. This object has a height of 30 mm. and appears to be made of quartzite (Fig. 111, *right*). It lacks the head, but resembles the gold figurine in the position of its arms, hands, and feet, as well as in having nodule-like knees.

Although I know very little concerning pre-Columbian gold work, it is evident that this metal was given singular preference among the higher cultures of the American continents. The Spanish galleons carried gold seized from the Indians of Columbia and Panama to Spain; some of these treasure ships were wrecked on the coasts of Cuba and Florida; and the local Indians apparently obtained specimens from these shipwrecks, which they added to their ceremonial equipment.

Gold figurines similar to the Cuban specimen have been found in both Central and South America.³ The Central and some of the South American figurines differ, however, in having a fineness of up to 22 carats and a ductility which has permitted them to be hammered into the desired shapes. The Cuban specimen has more resemblances in its technology to such South American goldwork as Chimú of Peru and Chibcha of the Bogota region in Colombia.

Was the figurine brought to Cuba by some migrating group of Indians who taught gold-working to the natives of Yaguajay; was it the product of trade between the natives and the inhabitants of the continent; was it recovered from the wreck of a Spanish galleon; or are we dealing with an autochthonous object? Whatever the answer, we need to learn more about the life, handicrafts, and arts of the Cuban Indians, whom the Spanish chroniclers made to appear a backward race, completely lacking in art and so aggressive that it was necessary to exterminate them.

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⁴ Translated by Irving Rouse.

A REPORT ON RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE LAGÔA SANTA REGION OF MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL

As a supplement to the recent review of H. V. Walter's book, *The Prehistory of the Lagôa Santa Region*,¹ some additional information about the nature of his recent archaeological work is of interest. After the completion of our own year of archaeological field work in the Lower Amazon, three days were spent in the Lagôa Santa Region, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais with Mr. H. V. Walter studying his collections, and visiting and excavating with him some of the rock shelters and caves. Two sites, not mentioned in his report, are of such archaeological importance in the preceramic cultural history of South America that they should be brought to the attention of other archaeologists.

By way of introduction, it should be stated that Mr. Walter, the British Vice-Consul in Belo Horizonte, is primarily interested in paleontological data, a quest which for fifteen years has led him to extensive exploration at his own cost in the caves in and around the Lagôa Santa region. Those he has explored in recent years have produced artifacts, and there being no interested specialist to whom he could resort, Mr. Walter has taken upon himself the added task of their excavation. The specimens, catalogued with data on circumstances of discovery, he has preserved, along with his extensive fossil collections, in the basement museum of his home in Belo Horizonte due to a complete lack of local, state or federal interest in the scientific or educational importance of his material. Because of a primary interest and more extended research in paleontology, the recent report dealt only briefly with his archaeological finds; however, much of the material in his collections, along with the associated field data, would warrant a careful study and classification by trained archaeologists. Two of his most recent excavations, Mãe Rosa and Eucalyptus (still in progress), observed by us and not mentioned in his recent publication, are of special significance to American archaeologists.

In a natural limestone cave, called Mãe Rosa, about 15 km. drive from the small town of Pedro Leopoldo, which is 50 km. from Belo Horizonte and a few kilometers southeast of the cave Lagôa Funda, Mr. Walter has ex-

contrados en el cacigazo de Bantí. See also Irving Rouse "Archeology of the Maniabón Hills, Cuba," *Yale University Publications in Anthropology*, No. 26, New Haven, 1942, pp. 90-107.

² Rouse, *op. cit.*, pp. 96-7, 103-7.

³ E.g., Pal Kelemen, *Medieval American Art*, New York, 1943, Pls. 202, b; 217, c; 225, c.

¹ AMERICAN ANTIQUITY, Vol. 15, No. 2, pp. 167-8, October, 1949.