

THE POTTERS

Following the Spanish re-occupation of New Mexico in 1698, some Pueblo Indians, principally from Jemez Pueblo, fled into Old Navaholand. During the recent archaeological excavations in this area, evidence came to light of the close proximity of these Pueblo groups to those of the Navaho. During the ensuing century pottery fragments from Navaho sites indicate definite Pueblo influence, as sherds decorated with red, black, and occasionally white designs ~~on pottery~~ had been fired to the high temperature used by the Pueblo People.

Later came utilitarian pieces, some of good size, with thin walls made of crumbly clay with sand for temper. Shaped with the use of corncob scrapers, many had exceptionally beautiful form. These storage jars had pointed bottoms, being held upright by the use of basket rings or set in depressions in the floor. Water bottles were also made of pottery with narrow openings with handles on the sides through which horsehair ropes were inserted. These were flattened on one side for ease in carrying, and some had designs. Legend tells of water bottles being made of the four colors, white, blue, yellow, and black for carrying water for ceremonial purposes, gathered from the four sacred mountains. These water bottles are very rare now, for they were replaced by other types of containers as soon as they became available. Bowls of various shapes and sizes, spoons and dippers and dolls, many with finely executed designs, were the products of years gone by.

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