

Pulque Cups

Introduction

I The syncretistic nature of Ceramics and other Containers - Clay Pots, Gilded Containers, Tepalcates, Cuauhxicallis, Vorkets, wooden boxes but the focus will be on Ceramic Containers

A. Cups, Pitchers, bowls, plates

B. Containers of Ashes, Mixtec Long funeral bowls. Eff-gie bowls - i.e. Chalchihuitl Vase etc

C. Uses mostly home use, Ritual uses, Syncretistic uses. All vessels are about Centering. They are "navels" Since the fire god is always at the Center "Xicaltencati" much of Pre-Colonial symbols refer to Centering and to the navel and hence the Axis Mundi or the portal to all three kinds of existence - the earth, the underworld, the heavens.

D. Believe that the night sky seen over head is either the same sky as a minor image of the sky that exists in the underworld when the sun dominates the daytime sky.

Introduction Conclusion

Having studied the Ritual and Symbolic significance of cups and their functions, let us turn to the Pulque Cups whose iconography promises us that they served a ritual function.

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Chalchihuitl Symbolic fire, water, ^{showing} skin, eye, mirror
 Quincunx in various forms
 5th Layer of Heaven - Source of ^{motion} motion, Abode of the Sun
 Tzompantli

Symbols on the Cups

Use the first cup you
 saw or on 4 sample
 and on large cups.

- A. Skulls and Cross bones
- B. Centers of the upper bowls
- C. Star eyes, feathered brows
- D. Pontil - 'Flaps'
- E. Feathers - Down and others feathers, Aztecalli
- F. "Umbilical Shape"
- G. "Flower" images on umbilicus
- H. Black or white stripes - (Perhaps only white on a black ground)
- I. "Falcon Claw" marks on Rim. most
- J. Peculiar "mirror designs on the back of skulls"
- K. Hand with mirror
- L. Aztecalli
- M. Heavenly cleft (example D) discuss other clefts or Horns + rain mountains.

Examples A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L

Conclusions (Cont.)

Let us turn to the Cups themselves and to the symbols and other images painted on them. It appears that they have a celestial significance.

Fundamental Symbols

This should be first

A. Quincunx - Chalchihuitl - fire, water, shining, derived from the eye. Context gives meaning, minor, star

B. Quincunx - various forms for Centering, also mention moltes cross, the number "5" Hand, 5th layer of Heaven above of the

C. Sun and origin of meteors.

D. Xecolcolumbiqui, Xchuculcun, fire serpent, butterfly

Symbols on Cups

Cup shape too

A first all symbols at first - ~~first~~ just a list, no more

1) Skulls and crossbones, Stars, Ancestors, dead warrior, Tzompantli, Skulls as Centers and entrance to the underworld, Tzontemon, Mixcoatl, Milky Way, New Fire Ceremony. Citaltepec (Star = to Ancestor) = "Star Hill" and "Ancestor Hill" Skull imagery at the Ball Court (always associated with Tzompantli). Bull = Skull. 3 skulls at Center of Ball Court. Ball Court first standing built by the Aztecs at the new Tenochtitlan. Starry Battle at Ball Court death of Coyolxauhqui and Centzon Huitznahuac slain by the sun at Coatepec. Mentions Tezcatloca with Ahuecoatl skull head under the leg. (She may represent the palae star, Citaltepec around

whom the other stars circled.

2. Cross bones = Sacred Thigh bones raised on high ^{at munda} in Warrior Courtyards. Crossed bones with feathers down may be quincunxes and thus symbols of the Center of Heaven and the 5th level of Heaven. Bones ~~could be~~ also represent the sign of olin = movement and sign of life force. Could be related to the mamukhuzh or fire ~~the~~ sticks. Related to Xocall wood of the fire drill and wood is used as the "bones" of idols - including that of the fire god on top of the Xocall pole at Xocall Huetzil Ceremony.

3. Red and cream painted Center in each of the bowls make a Chulchihuitl design 

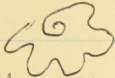
4. Star Eyes, Feathered brows, Xichcoatl, "death eyes" skulls (Stars) Tezcatli?

5. Panther - Hogs Tzompantli, Ponquetzalotli

6. Feathers - "Eagle Down" and other kinds of feathers. Sacrifice, Heavenly, festival - ihuill, ihuill ihuicatl, ^{ayotl} Coztaxelli, "feathered eyebrows" or Coztaxelli, white feathers used at Xocall Huetzil

7. "Umbilical" Shapes - Coatlhuac, Serpent headed with feathered eye brows; Worm, Caterpillar, ^{FLINT} Flint, origin of fire? meteor, Obsidian, (green Teotihuacan ^{graffiti} ^{written} ^{on} ^{stone} ^{at} ^{under} ^{river} ^{what} ^{page})

8. "Flower" imagery an example "B", the xochitl means "spark" Flower and fire symbolism. Marlin Butterfly perhaps.


Venus Shell
Star Shell
Shaped like
a hand

9. Hand - the number five, the Center of Ritual where offerings are given and received by the hand. The mamalhuaztli - Hand, fire drill. Brazin is a Tle maitl or "Fire Hand". The role of the hand in the making of Tlac. but more of fire god.

10. Black and White Stripes - most likely white paper strips on black background, see white papers used at Xocotl Huizgi.

Some say that double 11 lines represent fire (Ved. Catalpa from Brit. Mus.)

11. "Falcon Claw" marks on cup rim. Again refers to Xocotl Huizgi and Sponnow ~~black~~ at that festival. Also Huastec  mark on women and Tlaxotec festival. Ad Tlaloc temple Remember - Tlaloc is woman.

12. Mirror symbols with feather down, on the sides of the skulls?  Venus or Star symbols? Hand with mirror (example C)

13. Heavenly "Cleft" (example D) discus clefts, horns, twin mountains, Centering, Fire god, Xochiquetzal, Mocuel xochitl, Xalatl. Xalotli skull = Venus as double star?

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Conclusion

A Ceremony honoring Ancestors, the descent of meteors and/or celestial fire. Xocotl (name related to ocatl) a God of celestial fire perhaps drawn out of the heavens by the monalhuastli fire drill as a celestial spark (a tiny meteor).

This would fit the Ceremony of Xocotl Huetzot which honors Atotlcutli Xocotl or Fire and honors Ancestors with fire sacrifices. The Xocotl pole is the fire drill descending. Time of Ceremony September - October (Chuk-thin) coincides with yearly meteor showers.

The meteor coming out of Orion may be especially honored since Orion contains the celestial monalhuastli and the hour glass shapes of cups echoes the hour glass shape of Orion Anstiltater. The band of stars at the center of the hour glass exactly echoes the stars at the narrow necks of a number of these beakers.

note: Xocotl pole itself a "fire drill" could also serve the other touch  with fire on top. Remember that the pole might equal the  base which stands for the number 5." data-bbox="880 950 910 970"/>