Middle Holocene Ceramic Artifacts from the Encino Village Site

Nancy Anastasia Desautels-Wiley

Abstract

Ceramic artifacts and *Olivella* grooved rectangular (OGR) beads have been found in association at four archaeological sites in Orange and Los Angeles counties: the Little Harbor site (CA-SCAI-17) on Catalina Island, the Irvine site at Newport Bay (CA-ORA-64), one of the Vasquez Rocks sites (CA-LAN-361) in the Sierra Pelona Mountains, and the Encino Village site (CA-LAN-43) in the San Fernando Valley. At the Encino Village site, 27 ceramic artifacts and 14 OGR beads were discovered. The stratigraphic associations between the two artifact classes and the short date range established for OGR beads, 4400–5400 BP, suggest a Middle Holocene age for the ceramics. The Encino Village ceramic specimens bear superficial similarities to other specimens from southern California and northern California. The ceramics and OGR beads are the oldest diagnostic artifacts yet identified at LAN-43, and they greatly predate the brown ware ceramics identified in Late Prehistoric period Los Angeles and Orange county site components. Such late brown ware vessel fragments are absent at the Encino Village site.

Overview of Investigations at CA-LAN-43

The Encino Village site is located in the San Fernando Valley just north of the Santa Monica Mountains (Figure 1). The site occupied an area near the intersection of Ventura and Balboa Boulevards in the Encino area of the City of Los Angeles. Los Encinos State Historic Park lies just to the north and across Ventura Boulevard. In 1769 Gaspar de Portolá camped near a water source in the vicinity and noted an Indian village (Bolton 1966:137). A small segment of El Camino Real, which linked Spain's colonial outposts in California, ran along what is now Ventura Boulevard. In 1960 Dr. Charles E. Rozaire of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History observed prehistoric artifacts on the ground surface south of Ventura Boulevard, opposite the park (Figure 2). He recorded the site as CA-LAN-43 with the expectation that this location might equate with the historic Indian village noted by Portolá. The historic mention of an Indian village coupled with Rozaire's surface finds led Dr. William J. Wallace to excavate at Los Encinos State Historic Park. However, Wallace (1962:191) found no evidence of a contact-period village (Figure 2).

Nearly two decades later Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc. (SRS) located a historic tavern and associated corral, privy, and trash scatters south of Ventura Boulevard, opposite the park, not far from LAN-43 (SRS 1980a, 1980b; Whitney-Desautels 1983). Beginning around 1875, the historic building served as a way station for immigrant Basques (particularly Franco-Argentines) seeking employment in the San Fernando Valley and points north (Elliott 1983; Van Wormer 1983; Whitney-Desautels 1983). Arborglyphs document the presence of these migrant Basque sheepherders throughout central and northern California; many of the surnames carved on trees hundreds of miles to the north are the same as those of known Encino immigrants (Mallea-Olaetxe 2000). The Encino establishment operated until about 1910 with successive Basque families retaining control, including the Garnier, Oxarart, Gless, and Amestoy families. Studies at this historic site provided insights into the changing socioeconomic dynamics of the San Fernando Valley as cattle ranching gave way to wheat, barley, and sugar beet farming, while transportation avenues progressed from El Camino Real to stage line and to

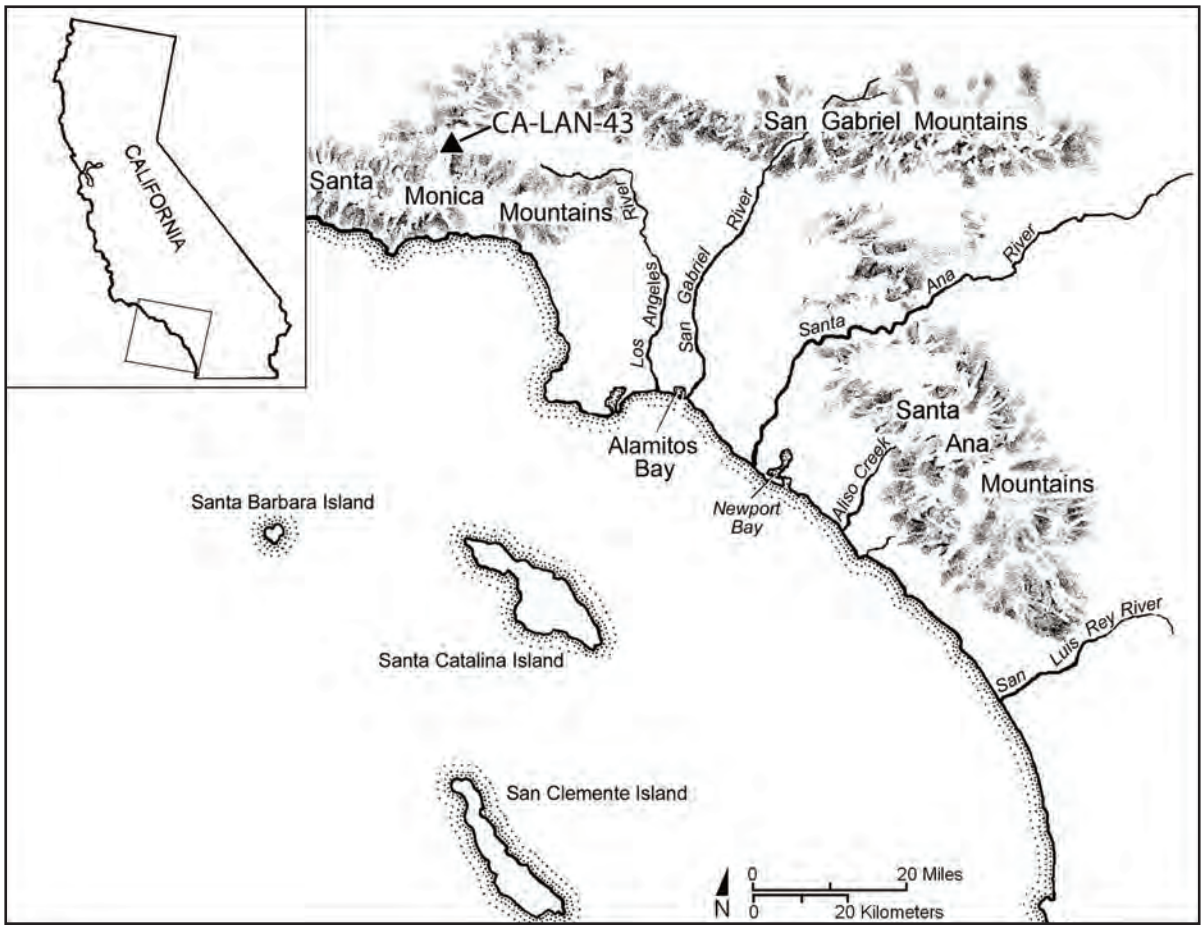

Figure 1. Location of the Encino Village site, CA-LAN-43, in relation to natural features. Map by Rusty van Rossmann.

railroad services, the latter including a spur line to the Amestoy ranch (Whitney-Desautels 1983).

In 1983 SRS continued investigations west of the tavern, proceeding with backhoe trenches in order to penetrate 1.5 m of recent, imported fill. The trenching was intended to identify the historic Basque cultural deposits and to search for any evidence of the prehistoric site recorded by Rozaire. A surface survey conducted prior to the SRS investigations failed to find any indications of the prehistoric site. All SRS archaeological work was in compliance with environmental mitigation requirements preparatory to construction grading.

Surprisingly, SRS trenches provided evidence of a deeply buried prehistoric deposit containing village residue as well as human and animal burials and cremations (Mason 1986).[1] Geoarchaeological investigations, including geophysical surveys (Whitney-Desautels 1986a and 1986b) and sedimentology research (Sundberg 1985), indicated that an ancient watercourse strongly influenced human settlement in that region. A stream ran under what is now Ventura Boulevard and surrounded the archaeological site on three sides, rendering the prehistoric deposit "peninsular" in shape. This watercourse separated the southern and western LAN-43 prehistoric area from the historic Basque cultural deposits to the east and

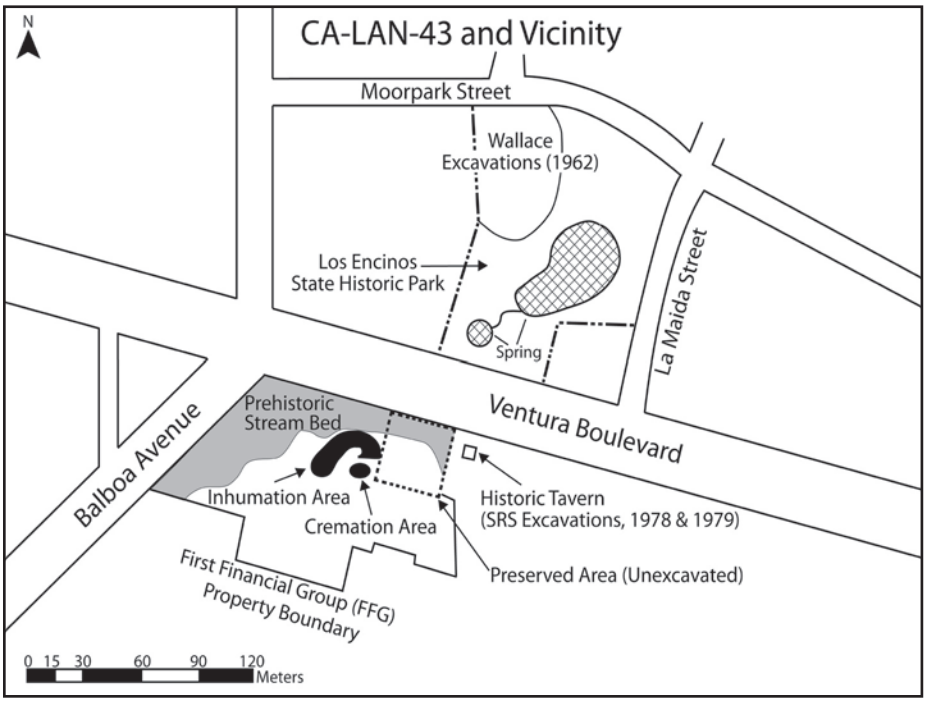

Figure 2. The surviving remnants of CA-LAN-43, the Encino Village site, as revealed by the Scientific Resources Surveys excavations south of Ventura Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles County. Los Encinos State Historic Park lies across the street to the north. Map by Ryan Taft.

also from Los Encinos State Historic Park to the north (Figure 2).

A seven-month excavation program at the Encino Village site began in mid-1984 and ran until early 1985. This fieldwork included the systematic excavation of 70 2 m square units, each arbitrarily located within a 4 m grid pattern, plus another 95 units of varying sizes (1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m, 2 x 2 m) specifically located for feature exposure. In aggregate, the excavations provided an 11.2 percent sample of the 4,480 m^2 of the known prehistoric site area slated for construction. This total included only half of the concentrated site area and all the peripheral non-site areas. An additional 1,796 m^2 (the second half of the concentrated site area) on the east end of the parcel was set aside for preservation, and therefore it remains available for future study (Whitney-Desautels 1986a).

The LAN-43 ceramic artifact collection was transferred to Franklin Fenenga for research and publication in the early 1990s and was in his care at the time of his death. Professor Fenenga, who had a lifelong interest in prehistoric California ceramic artifacts, was a peer reviewer for SRS throughout its work on the Encino Village site. Fenenga (1977) had published an account of Marin County clay figurines and also consulted with Dr. Christopher Drover on Orange County Middle Holocene figurines over a 20-year period (1971–1991) before working with the Encino Village ceramic artifacts. Fenenga consulted with Robert S. Brown (2012a, 2012b) on the LAN-43 ceramic artifact collection. The present note on the ceramic artifacts from the Encino Village site is presented in lieu of the summary Franklin Fenenga was preparing at the time of his death.

Encino Village Site Chronology

Bone from animal burials at the Encino Village was dated. These specimens fell within a short period of time, AD 1065–1440, or 510 to 885 BP (Langenwalter 1986; Taylor et al. 1986). The human burials were partially contemporaneous with the animal burials yet

have a greater date range, extending to 1170 BP. In addition, 30 shell samples from successive levels below extensive fill deposits at two units were dated. The 30 radiometric dates indicate that site habitation was continuous from about 500 to 2000 BP, with considerable lateral variation across the site (i.e., Unit 8: 485–1360 BP; Unit 20: 1000–2000 BP).

There are, however, serious problems with the sequential dating, particularly in Unit 20 where reverse stratigraphy (through interpretation of the dates) is evident in the lower half of the profile and in Units 8 and 20, both of which had modern dates at the top and bottom of the sequence. This problem may be the result of bioturbation, for the upper and lower sediments contained modern rodent burrows with seeds and modern nesting materials as deep as the 200 cm level:

> This may reflect the condition of the burrowing at the site in which animals would move down into the deposit until they encountered the unyielding basement Modelo Formation at which point they would dig laterally in the deposits (P. Langenwalter, personal communication) [Taylor et al. 1986:46].

One shell-based radiocarbon date from Feature 92 (Unit 143, 0–20 cm) produced a conventional date of 4570 ± 80 BP. This date corresponds with earlier materials found on the site, for example, two cogged stone artifacts in the lowest levels, which were not dated by samples from the unit profiles. This date indicated at least sporadic site use during the Middle Holocene. One additional radiocarbon date is now available from the Encino Village site. Vellanoweth (2001:945) submitted an OGR bead from a lower level, resulting in a calibrated radiocarbon midpoint of 4990 BP (Beta-115551). In his study, eight OGR beads were obtained from sites in southern California, Nevada, and Oregon and subjected to the accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) dating procedure. The eight dates cluster within roughly a one thousand year period, from 4400 to 5400 BP; the Encino bead falls near the midpoint. For half of the sites described by Vellanoweth, the OGR beads represent the oldest components from several early sites, including CA-ORA-85, LAN-43, CA-SBA-119, and the DJ Ranch, Oregon. This suggests possibly that the people making the OGR beads were the first to leave tangible evidence of occupation at these sites and/or that the beads were heirlooms.

CA-LAN-43 Ceramic Artifacts

The Encino Village ceramic artifact collection is illustrated in Figures 3–5 and inventoried in Table 1. Stratigraphic placements and general descriptions of each specimen are provided in Table 1. The collection can be described as "shaped ceramics," as each artifact was intentionally made, yet no specimen represents a potsherd. Few of the LAN-43 ceramic artifacts are hard-fired; most are low-fired, or "baked." Most of the examples are not anthropomorphic, although this identification is appropriate for at least two and probably three specimens. One specimen (Figure 4d) likely represents a phallus (see also cover art). Two anthropomorphic specimens clearly represent females (Figures 4i, j; see also cover art).

Some specimens are tapered, and many have a curved profile. Several retain evidence of manufacture through rolling (see Schumacher 1880; also Shepard 1957). Some are comparatively plain, while others are embellished using incision, impression (including punctation), or modeling (including the use of appliqué).

Under 10x magnification, the paste of the Encino Village ceramics appears relatively homogeneous. Occasional rounded or subangular fragments of quartz and feldspar temper are noted; however, most temper appears as sand of medium to fine texture. All the ceramic artifacts are fairly uniform in color and fall within the same general Munsell Hue of 10YR, differing only slightly in relation to their values and

Figure 3. Lenticular ceramic artifacts from CA-LAN-43. Front view at top, side view at bottom. Note incised designs on a and d. Impressed on b. Photographs by Rez Moges.

chroma. Described as gray, six pieces (Cat. Nos. 80805, 10353, 2454, 4187, 3200, and 608) conform to the Munsell notation of 10YR 6/1. One artifact (Cat. No. 13523), also considered gray, is attributed to 10YR 5/1. Two of the ceramic pieces (Cat. Nos. 3217 and 9726) are grayish-brown with a Munsell reading of 10YR 5/2. Eight artifacts (Cat. Nos. 3701, 28440, 3201, 81221, 3464, 81146, 22229, and 8000) appear light brownish gray (10YR 6/2). Eight specimens (Cat. Nos. 28856, 82003, 9411, 10234, 3220, 606, 607, and 611) are described as pale brown (10YR 6/3). Finally, the last two ceramic pieces (Cat. Nos. 3958 and 3202) are light gray (10YR 7/1).

Initial Typology

The Encino Village ceramic artifact collection has been organized into a provisional typology based upon techniques of manufacture. The typology follows that created by Goerke and Davidson (1975) nearly 40 years ago for a generally similar collection from northern California. Initial manufacture was done by rolling; subsequent modifications were by flattening, modeling, or pulling. Goerke and Davidson described 12 clay figurines from Marin County. They also conducted replication experiments as a means of understanding manufacture and decoration methods (Goerke and Davidson 1975:9). Four major manufacturing techniques were proposed for the Marin County collection; these have been employed for the typological ordering of the Encino Village ceramic artifacts.

Rolled Technique

> Clay of proper consistency lends itself to the formation of long slender rope-like shapes when rolled between the palms. Careful control of the finished diameter allows the roll to

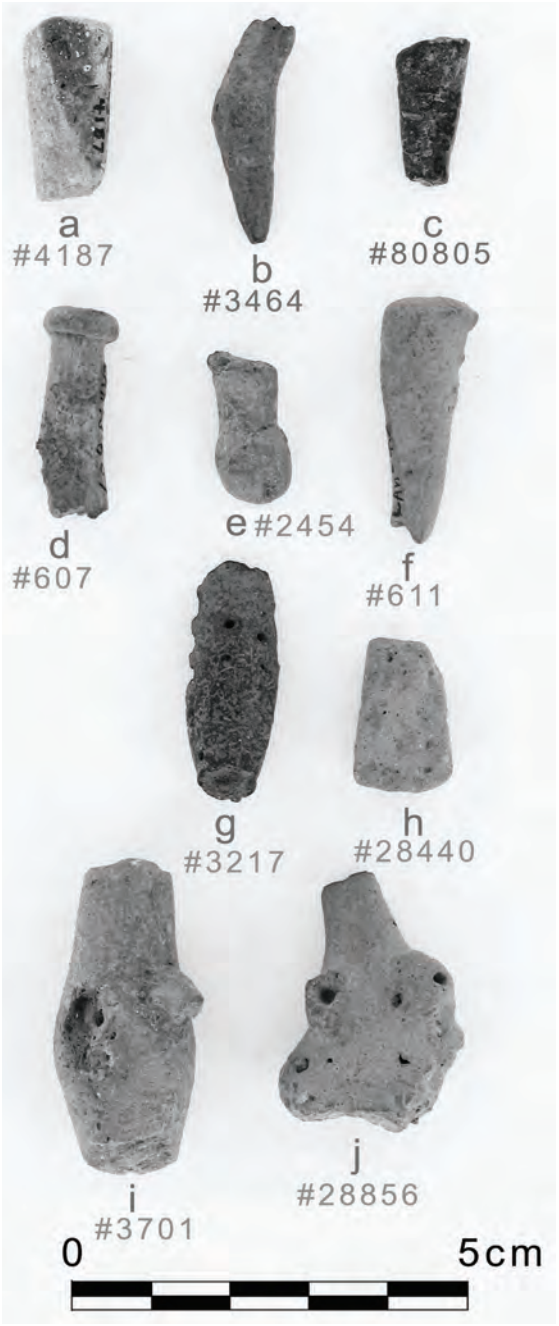

Figure 4. Modeled ceramic artifacts from CA-LAN-43. Note punctations on g and j. Photographs by Rez Moges.

> be extended continuously. This is the basic technique used in the coiled pottery of the Southwest [Goerke and Davidson 1975:9].

As noted just above, one of the first steps in the production of all coiled pottery vessels is rolling the clay into long cylindrical strips, which can then be "coiled" in circular fashion. If ceramic vessels are not intended and the roll is left uncoiled, as is the case with the LAN-43 ceramic artifacts, it cannot be termed a "coil." Thus the more accurate identification of "rolls" is employed in specific application to the Encino Village specimens.

> **Flattening (Lenticular) Technique** (Figure 3, Table 1: four examples)
>
> … a small wad of damp clay is rolled and flattened between the palms of the hands into a rough lenticular shape … a sticky or plastic clay and sufficient amalgamation of surfaces was needed to allow the application to survive firing [Goerke and Davidson 1975:9].
>
> **Modeled Technique** (Figure 4, Table 1: 10 examples)
>
> The modeled technique represents an advance beyond the patted disc and cigar-shaped roll, as it incorporates control of the clay body and the use of tools to achieve a desired form [Goerke and Davidson 1975:9].
>
> **Pulled Technique** (Figure 5, Table 1: 13 examples)
>
> The pulled technique is one in which the clay is formed by 'drawing,' or longitudinal traction, as opposed to rolling. The object will be long but generally thinner in section than a rolled piece. The action of pulling aligns the clay platelets parallel to the width, as is often

Figure 5. Pulled ceramic artifacts from CA-LAN-43. Note design elements on d, f, g, h, j–m. Photographs by Rez Moges.

apparent in exposed lateral breaks [Goerke and Davidson 1975:9].

Decoration Techniques

In order to replicate various decoration techniques, Goerke and Davidson (1975:9) used obsidian and chert flakes, bone awls, bird bones, rattlesnake and horsetail grass stems, twigs, and a feather quill. The dried end of rattlesnake grass was used to impress small, open circles into the clay when pressed at right angles and to open ovate designs when cocked at a 60 degree angle. The same stem cut lengthwise created lunate impressions. Punctations were created with

Table 1. Stratigraphic Placements and Descriptions of Ceramic Artifacts from CA-LAN-43.

Fig. No.	Cat No.	Unit	Level	Length	Width	Thick	Production Technique/Decoration Notes
4e	2454	4 [a, b, c]	150–160	2.0	1.0	0.9	modeled: cylinder with bulb (possible appliqué)
5k	9411	5	110–120	2.7	1.3	0.9	pulled: pre-firing incised, cross-hatching
4c	80805	5 [b]	160–170	1.9	0.9	0.7	modeled: tapered, slightly ovoid
5c	9726	8	100–110	1.6	1.2	0.7	pulled: 2 short parallel deep impressions
5d	10234	8	130–140	1.4	–	0.5	pulled: 2 short deep grooves, twig (?) impressions
5l	10353	8 [b]	160–170	2.0	1.5	1.0	pulled: 3 incisions, part of geometric design
5m	13523	8 [b]	210+	2.2	1.6	1.5	modeled: 2 parallel incised lines half encircle cylinder
5i	3200	11	60–70	4.1	3.6	1.5	pulled: irregular surfaces (daub?)
5j	3220	13	70–80	3.7	1.7	1.7	pulled: pre-firing cross-hatching; burned base
5h	3202	18 [b, c]	140–150	3.1	2.2	0.7	pulled: basketry impressed, split coil broken both ends
4b	3464	20 [c]	120–130	2.8	0.9	0.8	modeled: small shaped clay cylinder
3b	3958	20 [b, d]	150–160	1.5	1.5	0.4	lenticular: 3 parallel deep grooves
4a	4187	20 [b, c]	190–200	2.3	1.2	1.0	modeled: cylindrical
5e	3201	24 [b]	170–180	1.9	1.1	0.8	pulled: fragment with 3 firing cracks
4f	611	27 [c]	100–110	3.1	1.2	0.9	modeled: club-shaped, broken at base
4d	607	27	160–170	2.7	1.0	0.9	modeled: cylindrical shaft with appliqué, phallic
5a	608	27 [b, d]	160–170	1.6	1.0	0.9	pulled: cylindrical, undecorated section
3a	606	27 [b, d]	170–180	1.8	1.7	0.6	lenticular: 9 shallow parallel incised lines, probaby pre-firing
4g	3217	29	90–94	3.0	1.2	–	modeled: cylindrical, punctate rows, 20 punctations
4i	3701	33	130–140	4.1	1.8	–	modeled: female figurine, one appliqué breast intact, other broken off and missing
3c	81221	56 [b]	220–230	2.6	1.1	–	lenticular: cylindrical column
5b	8000	61	70–80	2.5	1.3	0.9	pulled: broken on both ends and laterally
4j	28856	np	–	3.3	2.4	1.8	modeled: female figurine with breasts and nipple indents (punctations)
4h	28440	np	–	1.9	1.2	0.9	modeled: two rows with shallow, small punctations, possible fingernail impressions at base
3d	82003	np	–	1.5	1.2	1.0	lenticular: 6 parallel scored lines (pre-firing), 1 fingernail impression, additional pre-firing lines
5g	81146	np	–	2.3	1.9	0.6	pulled: basketry or cordage impression, some asphaltum
5f	22229	np	–	1.9	1.4	1.3	pulled: 2 sets of fingernail (?) impressions

a. Presence of dated OGR bead same unit, 5080 (4990) 4870 CYBP.
b. Presence of OGR bead, same depth range, soils layer IIb, 150–200cm.
c. Presence of OGR bead, same unit (9).
d. Presence of OGR bead, same unit and depth range (4).
Notes: Measurements in cm, existant maximum.
27 total specimens; 5 specimens have no provenience; 22 compared with OGRs.
np = no provenience.
Shaded cells highlight two clusters: units 4, 5, and 8 and units 20, 24, and 27.

the pointed end of an awl, a sharpened stick, or grass stem. Bone awls typically produce conical indentations. Deeper impressions were kept consistent by using stiff grass or twigs. Impressed grooves were made by using the long edge of an awl, a small twig, stiff grass stems, or a straight-edged stone flake (Goerke and Davidson 1975:10). Repetitive, linear, zig-zag impressions or "rocker patterns" can be created by rocking a sharp-edged implement, such as a mollusk shell or some other multi-level surface, back and forth over the clay while it is still soft (Macko 1998:58; Sawyer and Koerper 2006:17).

Most if not all incising or impressing to decorate the surfaces of Encino Village artifacts occurred prior to the objects being fired. Scoring, or incising, using either a fingernail, sharp-edged stone tool, or pointed awl is apparent on several of the artifacts (Figures 3a, 3d, 5j-m). Fingernail impressing is noted (Specimens 82003 and 22229) as are punctations (see Figures 4g, h, j) made with some sort of stylus with a roundish cross-section at the business end. There are two examples reflecting linear impressing (specimens 3958 and 10234), possibly using twigs. Two Encino Village ceramic objects (Figures 5g, h) were basketry (or cordage?) impressed; one example (Cat. No. 81146) shows asphaltum on the impressed surface. The back side of specimen 3202 was carefully crafted to effect longitudinal convexity.

Of the two anthropomorphic female figurines (Figures 4i, j) the taller was given two appliqué breasts, although one is now missing. For the other specimen (Cat. No. 28856) the breasts appear to be modeled out of the clay body, after which punctate impressions were added to indicate nipples. The artifact's upper extension, which represents a neck and/or head, is oddly skewed in relation to the body.

The artifact of Figure 4d is most likely a phallic representation, its appliqué element probably indicating a foreskin. The object of Figure 4e is arguably phallic; its bulbous element was perhaps appliquéd to the shaft.

The artifact shown in Figure 4g, a cylinder, is the only ceramic piece bearing multiple deep punctations, 15 in all; it is also the only piece showing a purposefully flattened (cut?) area, which appears on one edge. This object (Cat. No. 3217) was the only specimen found close to a burial (albeit in an adjacent quadrangle). The oldest human burials at LAN-43 are about 2,000 years old. If there was an association between the interment and the artifact, then this fired clay cylinder could have been an heirloom.

Ceramic Artifact Comparisons

Archaeological interest in ceramic artifacts and figurines from northern California began 70 years ago (Heizer and Beardsley 1943; Heizer and Pendergast 1955; Pendergast 1957). Soon thereafter, True (1957) studied examples from southern California, while Davis (1959) compared California examples to those throughout the western United States. True and Warren (1961) then published a specimen from Santa Monica, and shortly afterwards, Elassaser (1963) published two more examples from central California. Tom King (1967) published examples from Marin County, as did Goerke and Davidson (1975) and Franklin Fenenga (1977). The most comprehensive review of ceramic figurines and ceramic artifacts as presently known from northern California has been assembled by White (2013:29–63).

Returning to southern California, Drover (1971, 1975, 1978, 1991) worked with ceramic collections from Newport Bay, Coyote Canyon Cave, and Santa Catalina Island, while Hedges (1973) studied San Diego County examples. A collection from Mason Valley, San Diego County, housed at the Bowers Museum was studied by McKinney and Knight (1973) and Dixon (1977). Paul Chace (1973) provided additional data on figurines. A single ceramic piece from a shaman's cache in Hemet appears to be the most significant

local item published during the 1980s (Langenwalter 1980). Recently, analysts have emphasized Middle Holocene ceramic technology at Santa Catalina Island (Porcasi 1998) and Orange County (Koerper and Hedges 1996; Sawyer and Koerper 2006). Earlier specimens have now been found in Riverside County (Horne and Griset 2013, this double issue), while later ones, also from Riverside County, have been described by Brown and Freeman (2012).

The Encino Village ceramics, while unusual, are not regionally unique. Porcasi (1998) reported that successive excavations at Little Harbor (CA-SCAI-17) on Catalina Island produced a collection of 19 fired clay objects. Two of these had been previously published (Drover 1978). Eleven of the 19 Catalina Island pieces are from what Porcasi termed the "main midden," a well-dated, 5,000 year-old deposit (Howard and Raab 1993:4; Porcasi 1998:275). Porcasi (1998:270) commented that ceramics from this early period predated any Southwestern influence and are coeval with the earliest ceramics discovered in the western hemisphere. Her comparative review revealed that Middle Holocene ceramics coexisted with OGR beads in Orange and Los Angeles counties at SCAI-17, CA-ORA-64, and CA-LAN-361. To this inventory we add the LAN-43 ceramics.

The 11 Catalina Island Middle Holocene fired clay objects appear to be amorphous and unlikely to represent human figurines (Porcasi 1998:Figure 3). Sawyer and Koerper (2006) recently surveyed most southern California "clay figurines," including the Little Harbor collection, and suggested three typological "categories of convenience" to describe them: (1) regional cylindrical/geometric figurines lacking both sex-based design factors and appendages; (2) regional anthropomorphic figurines whose salient design features are not sex-based; and (3) regional anthropomorphic figurines whose salient design factors are sex-based.

The first category has as its type collection the ceramic group from the Irvine site (ORA-64) at Newport Bay. Seven figurines were recovered from that site in the 1970s (Drover 1971, 1975; Drover et al. 1979, 1983), and 59 more were found during data recovery in the 1990s (Macko 1998). Sawyer and Koerper (2006:17) proposed the term "Newport Bay Tradition" with a fifth millennium BP minimal date for this collection. The Little Harbor shaped clay pieces are subsumed under this category as are the majority of the Encino collection; pieces from each of these three sites fall to Sawyer and Koerper's Category #1. Porcasi (1998) termed these artifacts "fired clay objects," and Sawyer and Koerper identified them as "figurines." The terms used in the present paper contradict neither. With the exception of the two possible female figurines, all LAN-43 ceramic artifacts are similar to the 10 published from the Irvine site and the 10 recovered from the Little Harbor site. Collectively these three sites provide the majority of examples which can be assigned to Sawyer and Koerper's Category #—cylindrical/geometric clay pieces with no appendages or anthropomorphic features. These unassuming ceramic artifacts represent an early, integrated group at a minimal date of 5000 BP (Drover 1975; Porcasi 1998; Sawyer and Koerper 2006). The two Encino Village figurines are the only female anthropomorphic specimens in this ceramic group. The Encino Village figurines do not equate with Sawyer and Koerper's (2006) Category #3 - figurines with sex-based attributes, which are characteristically lenticular with appliquéd almond-shaped eyes. The uniqueness of the specimen 28856 figurine from the Encino Village site may suggest a different source or an earlier inspiration since it does not follow the "Venus" (Sawyer and Koerper 2006) or "cigar" shape (Shafer 1975) of other Middle Holocene examples. Unfortunately, this is an unprovenienced find.

CA-LAN-43 *Olivella* Grooved Rectangular Beads

The second Middle Holocene diagnostic category from LAN-43 is the OGR bead (Class N: Grooved Rectangle [Bennyhoff and Hughes 1987:141–142]).

Table 2. Stratigraphic Placement and Descriptions of *Olivella* Grooved Rectangular Beads from CA-LAN-43.

Cat. No.	Unit	Level	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Height (mm)	Groove Length (mm)	Groove Width (mm)	Perf. Length (mm)	Perf. Width (mm)	Weight (g)	N Type
1666	3	140–150	5.80	5.50	1.20	4.70	0.90	1.70	0.60	0.04	N2
1697	3	170–180	5.20	5.20	1.50	3.80	0.80	1.90	0.60	0.05	N2
U4[a]	4	180–190	4.50	5.25	1.29	4.78	1.41	1.54	0.72	0.05	N2
18325	6	70–80	5.50	5.30	1.60	4.60	1.40	2.40	1.00	0.05	N2
U16	16	110–120	5.20	5.20	1.50	4.30	0.90	2.20	0.30	0.04	N2
82192	18	180–190	7.40	6.40	1.60	5.40	1.00	2.00	0.90	0.09	N2
3936	20	140–150	4.50	4.00	0.90	3.50	0.90	1.50	0.70	0.02	N3
5328	21	100–110	6.50	5.70	1.90	3.60	1.40	2.70	1.00	0.05	N2
27066	27	160–170	6.30	5.00	1.30	3.90	0.50	1.90	0.60	0.04	N2
27135	27	160–170	7.20	5.00	2.30	2.60	1.00	1.50	0.50	0.05	N2
81027	49	120–130	6.20	5.80	1.60	4.30	1.10	2.30	0.70	0.06	N2
U71	71	90–100	5.80	5.40	1.20	5.40	1.30	1.70	1.00	0.04	N2
80027	90	110–120	5.00	4.70	1.20	3.90	0.80	1.90	0.70	0.03	N2
U90	90	140–150	5.50	4.50	0.90	4.50	1.00	1.80	0.90	0.03	N2

a. Bead broken; measurements based on drawings. Bead AMS dated (5080–4870 CYBP) (see Vellanoweth 2001:945).
Note: Shaded cells highlight clusters in units 3 and 4; 20, 21, and 27; and 90. These clusters contained 64 percent of the beads.

All specimens known from the Encino Village site are inventoried in Table 2 and illustrated in Figures 6 and 7. The OGR bead type was described by Bennyhoff and Hughes (1987:141): "rectanguloid to oval bead with ground edges and an elongate perforation formed by a central groove transverse to the long axis of the shell. Large and small variants have been found." Vellanoweth (1995) added that the hole was sawed instead of drilled, probably with an abrasive stone such as quartzite. Size differences between the N1 (Large Grooved Rectangular) and N2 (Small Grooved Rectangular) variants were given by Bennyhoff and Hughes (1987:141–142). Drawing on Pendleton's (1985:248) research regarding shell artifacts from Hidden Cave, Nevada, Bennyhoff and Hughes offered six size parameters for the N1 subtype: 10.1 mm to 20.1 mm (length) and 7.3 mm to11.8 mm (width). Mean length was given as 13.7 mm, and mean width noted was 9.1 mm. Size parameters given for the N2 subtype were 5.5 mm to 9.7 mm (length) and 5.3 mm to 7.5 mm (width). Mean length was given as 6.6 mm, and mean N2 width was given as 5.6 mm. These N2 numbers were calculated from finds at multiple sites in both southern California and the Great Basin.

Vellanoweth (1995:16) proposed expanding the Class N taxonomy to include a smaller variant, N3. His N3 data built on OGR specimens from the Bird Blind site (CA-SCI-161) on San Nicolas Island; mean length for the proposed N3 variant is 4.3 mm, and mean width is either 3.57 mm or 3.75 mm. The 14 OGR beads from the Encino Village site exhibit a variety of shapes and sizes. The sample includes one unfinished specimen with chipped edges (Figure 6; Cat. No. 27135; Table 2). Thirteen of the beads can be categorized as N2, and one may be subsumed under the newly defined N3 category. The mean measurements for the Encino N2 beads are smaller compared with the type description for that category. The mean is 5.85 mm, and the mean width is 5.3 mm. The length range for the Encino N2

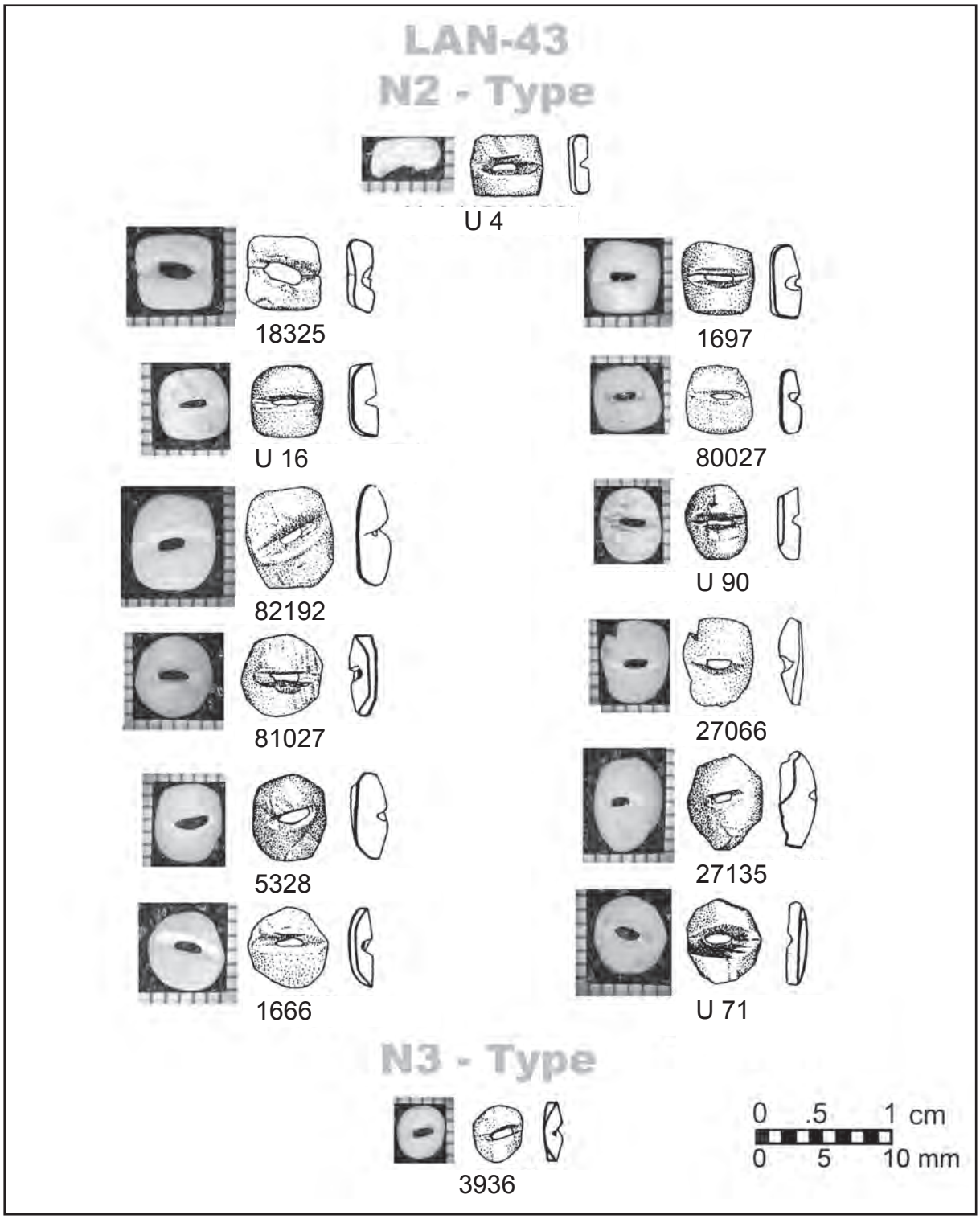

Figure 6. All *Olivella* grooved rectangular beads from CA-LAN-43. Beads' exterior, or dorsal, surfaces and side views. By Barbara Harmon and Rez Moges.

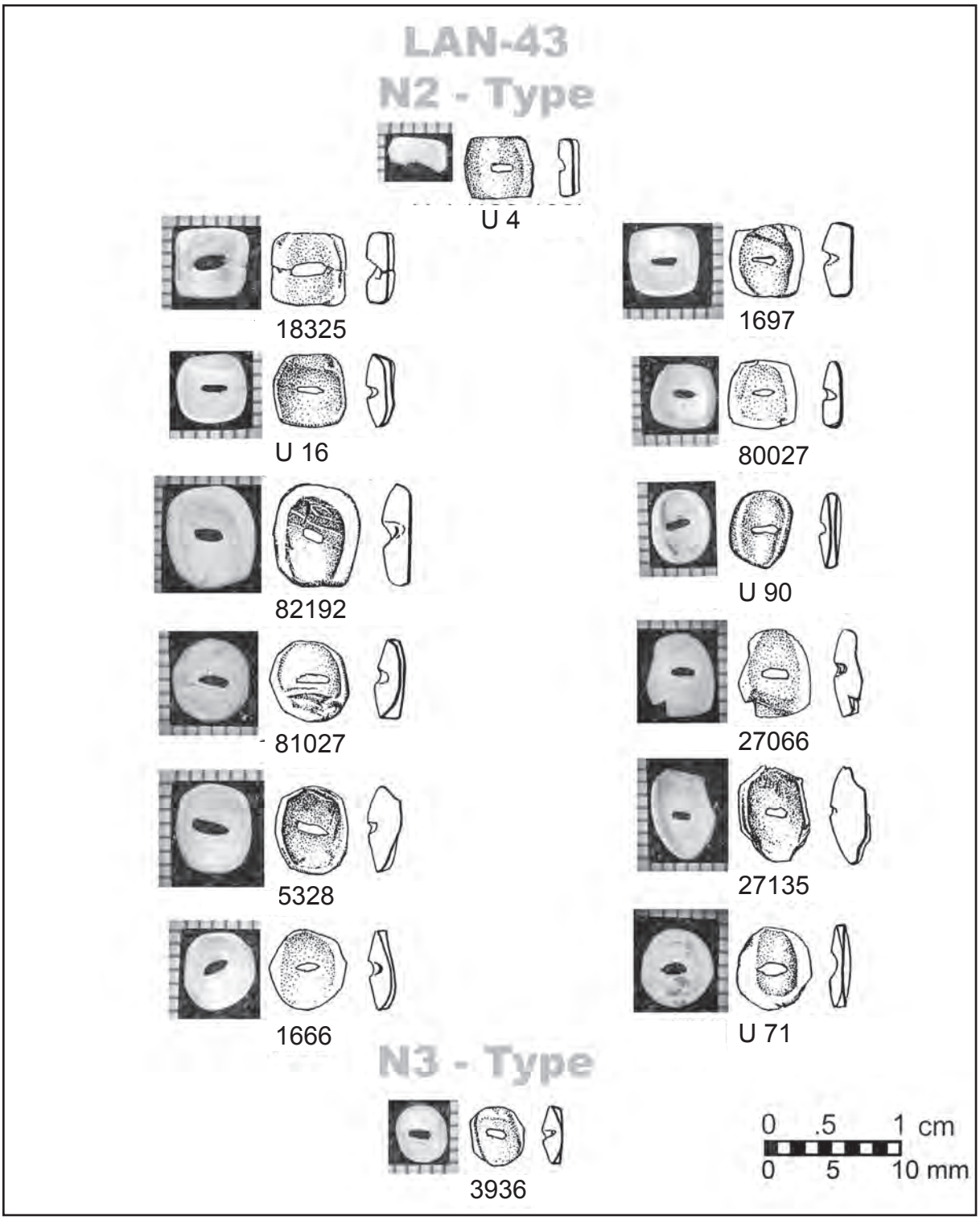

Figure 7. All *Olivella* grooved rectangular beads from CA-LAN-43. Beads' interior, or ventral, surfaces and side views. By Barbara Harmon and Rez Moges.

specimens is 4.5 mm to 7.4 mm, and the width range is 4.5 mm to 6.4 mm. The N3 bead is slightly larger (see Table 2) than the San Nicholas N3 beads but still outside the range given for the N2 type description and smaller than the majority of the Encino beads.

Figures 6 and 7 arrange the 14 LAN-43 beads by shape, progressing top to bottom from square to chipped oval. In general, the beads tend to be squares or rounded squares with few approaching rectangular or oval. One appears to be in the process of manufacture and therefore may indicate at least some on-site bead production. The first six beads are clearly squares or rounded squares; the next eight beads form a sequence of ovoid-like beads with angular edges. These are not formal square shapes but rather polygons approaching ovals; nonetheless, they still retain the angularity assigned to OGR beads.

The 14 Encino beads displayed in Figures 6 and 7 are decidedly angular. The first three illustrated beads (Cat. Nos. U4, 18325, 1697) are some of the squarest OGR beads ever reported, matched only by one OGR from San Nicholas Island (Vellanoweth 2001:946, Figure 2). Even the examples presented by Bennyhoff and Hughes (1987:138, Figure 8) do not approximate the "squareness" of the Encino specimens. A distinct characteristic of the Encino group is their general angularity. Most are polygonal, ranging from five- to seven-sided. The majority of the grooves on the dorsal faces traverse nearly the full width of the bead. Two (Cat. No. 5328, Cat. No. 27135) have shorter grooves; however, Specimen 27135 is the only example of an unfinished bead in the Encino group with an unfinished edge along the upper margin, which may account for the shorter groove length (Table 2). Four of the 14 have minimal shelving retaining shelf edges or remnants on the ventral face (Cat. Nos. 1697, U16, 81027, 27066). Overall, the Encino beads are square-rectangular-polygonal with a high degree of angular margins; shelving is generally absent, but a ground shelf edge may occur.

Ceramic Artifact and OGR Associations

At the Encino Village site, 27 ceramic artifacts and 14 OGR beads were recovered; many were found in close proximity to one another. Stratigraphic associations of OGR beads with ceramic artifacts are indicated by symbolic representations in Table 1. Twenty-two ceramic artifacts were found in LAN-43 excavation units, and 12 were associated with OGR beads in the deepest stratigraphic levels (ca. 150–200 cm); nine were found in the same units as OGR beads, while, most significantly, four ceramic artifacts were associated with OGR beads in the same unit levels, including the bead submitted by Vellanoweth (2001) for dating, which resulted in a calibrated radiocarbon midpoint of 4990 BP (Beta-115551). Six units (13, 15, 18, 24, 29, and 33) produced a single ceramic artifact, most from levels above the basal deposits, and unfortunately, five of the ceramic artifacts lack precise provenience.

The ceramic-OGR bead associations, the AMS dated Encino Village bead, and the restricted date range established for OGR beads in general (4400-5400 BP), all argue for a Middle Holocene age for the Encino Village ceramics. All this establishes them and the OGR beads as the oldest artifacts known from LAN-43. Seventy-two percent of the ceramic artifacts and 86 percent of all OGR beads are from levels below 100 cm. Approximately 73 percent of the provenienced ceramic artifacts (16) were recovered from two clusters occurring in adjacent excavation units: 4/5/8 and 18/20/24/27. Similarly, OGR beads cluster in Units 3/4 and 20/21/27 and 90. It is unlikely that these ceramic/bead associations are coincidental, and therefore, a cache or caches may be represented.[2]

Conclusions

Twenty-seven ceramic artifacts and 14 OGR beads were recovered from the Encino Village site where they co-occur in various units and levels. One of the

OGR beads was dated to ca. 5000 BP (Vellanoweth 2001). Significantly, there is the complete absence of any Late Prehistoric period pottery at LAN-43.

About 250 OGR beads have been reported to date, the majority occurring in the southern Channel Islands, where nearly 60 percent (N=146) are from San Nicholas Island where archaeologists have recovered bead manufacturing tools and detritus. The remainder were distributed from Orange County to Oregon. The Encino Village was located at a key juncture in the distribution network.

> In general, OGR beads seem to be found in sites situated near natural gathering places that are ideal for trade. On the mainland coast, they seem to occur in villages and cemeteries along coastal strands, above large bays, and on top of marine terraces. Further inland, they are found near natural passages over the Transverse Ranges. Beginning at the Encino Village site on the southern side of the mountains, where the Transverse Ranges and Coast ranges meet, OGR beads have been found at Vasquez Rocks near Castaic and on the other side of the mountains in southwestern Kern County. From here, they were probably traded via trails through the Great Valley or Owens Valley, located below the western and eastern flanks of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Either of these routes led to the Carson Sink area in western Nevada, where numerous OGR beads have been uncovered. From these lakeside settings, Surprise Valley in California's extreme northeast corner seems the most logical route to south central Oregon [Vellanoweth 2001:946–947].

The LAN-43 ceramic artifacts resemble those found at the Irvine site (ORA-64) and at Little Harbor (SCAI-17); both sites date to the late Early Holocene/early Middle Holocene (Drover 1975; Macko 1998) with the most secure associations at Little Harbor (Howard and Raab 1993; Porcasi 1998).[3] Porcasi (1998) was the first to recognize the association between OGR beads and ceramic artifacts at Santa Catalina Island, the Irvine site, the Encino Village site, and at Vasquez Rocks. Vellanoweth (2001) proposed routes by which these ancient locations may have been linked. The co-occurrence of both artifact types in common units and levels at LAN-43 suggests that during the Middle Holocene the Encino Village site perhaps played a key geographic role in some sort of trade involving beads. At present, the ceramic artifacts and the OGR beads are the oldest known artifacts at LAN-43. The Encino Village settlement may have evolved in part as a way station for the diffusion of cultural elements (traits and even entire complexes) from south to north. If so, it may have been a manifestation of an active, vibrant Middle Holocene interaction sphere (Howard and Raab 1993; Porcasi 1998; Vellanoweth 2001; Raab and Howard 2002; Sutton and Koerper 2005). Its geographic placement in a trade network and its control of a dependable water source in a generally arid environment may help to explain how the Encino Village site retained its importance throughout later prehistory and into the historic period.

End Notes

1. Archaeologists exposed 94 features, including human inhumations and cremations, eleven canid inhumations, one canid cremation, and one hawk burial. None of the animal burials were associated with human remains, but 24 whole or nearly whole abalone shells were associated with the animal remains as offerings. Grave goods also included 63 burned and unburned *Olivella* shell disc beads found with the single dog cremation contained within an abalone shell (Cerreto 1986; Langenwalter 1986; Mason 1986).

2**.** Ceramic artifacts in caches are known from other southern California archaeological sites. Rebecca Langenwalter (1980) discovered a shaman's cache in

Riverside County that contained a small globular clay figurine, a crystal, and a steatite bowl (see also Sawyer and Koerper 2006). Caching may imply that some of the LAN-43 ceramic artifacts were "power pieces" with magico-religious functions similar to those suggested for the Riverside County shaman's cache (Sawyer and Koerper 2006).

3. Macko (1998:55) noted similarities between the Irvine site specimens and the Eagle Cave figurines in the Lower Pecos group in Texas (Shafer 1975). However, Sawyer and Koerper (2006:31) dismissed this putative similarity, noting that the Texas figurines are cigar-shaped, unlike the Irvine site examples, and date much later than the California specimens.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Ryan Taft who prepared Figure 2 and Rez Moges who compiled Figures 3–6. Maureen Lynch and Andrew Garrison measured the OGR beads, and Garrison also examined and described the paste of the ceramic artifacts. Barbara Fenenga catalogued the Encino artifact collection, and Barbara Harmon drew the OGR beads. Rina Nieves provided catalogue data in 2011. Robert S. Brown prepared very detailed preliminary notes on the ceramic collection, and I appreciate his cooperation. David Van Horn reviewed an earlier draft of this paper; his comments strengthened its descriptions and interpretations. I thank all these many people for their excellent work. I also thank Brian D. Dillon and Matthew A. Boxt for inviting this paper and for their assistance in its preparation.

References Cited

Bennyhoff, James A., and Richard E. Hughes
1987 *Shell Bead and Ornament Exchange Networks Between California and the Western Great Basin*. Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History Vol. 64, Pt. 2. New York.

Bolton, Herbert Eugene
1966 *Historical Memoirs of New California by Francisco Fray Palou, O.F.M.* Russell and Russell, New York.

Brown, Robert S.
2012a Clay Figurines from the Encino Village Site, CA-LAN-43, Los Angeles County, California. Manuscript on file, Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc., Orange, California.
2012b Non-Figurine Clay Fragments from the Encino Village Site, CA-LAN-43, Los Angeles County, California. Manuscript on file Scientific Resources Survey, Inc., Orange, California.

Brown, Robert S., and Trevor A. Freeman
2012 Clay Figurines from the Walker Ranch Site of Menifee Valley, CA-RIV-333, Riverside County, California. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 46(3):19–39.

Cerreto, Richard
1986 Pathological Conditions and Non-Metric Variations in the Human Skeletal Sample from CA-LAN-43. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 22(3):49–62.

Chace, Paul G.
1973 Clay Figurines, Additional Data. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 9(3):41–43.

Davis, James T.
1961 *Trade Routes and Economic Exchange Among the Indians of California*. Reports of the University of California Archaeological Survey No. 54. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

Dixon, Keith A.
1977 The Mason Valley Clay Figurines: Their Decoration and Problem of Provenience. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 13(4):73–86.

Drover, Christopher E.
1971 Three Fired-Clay Figurines from 4-Ora-64, Orange County, California. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 7(4):45–49.
1975 Early Ceramics from Southern California. *The Journal of California Anthropology* 2(1):101–107.
1978 Prehistoric Ceramic Objects from Catalina Island. *The Journal of California Anthropology* 5(1):78–83.
1991 Appendix C: Ceramic Object. In Coyote Canyon Cave, An Inner Coastal Rockshelter Excavation of CA-ORA-236, by Laurie Lee Mitchell. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 27(2 and 3):120.

Drover, Christopher E., Henry C. Koerper, and Paul E. Langenwalter II
1983 Early Holocene Human Adaptation on the Southern California Coast: A Summary Report of Investigations at the Irvine Site (CA-ORA-64), Newport Bay, California. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 19(3 and 4):1–84.

Drover, Christopher E., R. Ervin Taylor, Thomas Cairns, and Jonathan E. Ericson
1979 Thermoluminescence Determinations of Early Ceramic Materials from Coastal Southern California. *American Antiquity* 44(2):285–295.

Elliott, John E.
1983 Metals from the Encino Roadhouse Excavations. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 19(1):67–87.

Elssaser, Albert B.
1963 Two Fired-Clay Figurines from Central California. *American Antiquity* 29(1):118–120.

Fenenga, Franklin
1977 An Early Account of a Fired Clay Anthropomorphic Figurine from Marin County. *The Journal of California Anthropology* 4(2):308–310.

Goerke, Elizabeth B, and Francis A. Davidson
1975 Baked Clay Figurines of Marin County. *Journal of New World Archaeology* 1(2):9–24.

Hedges, Ken
1973 Hakataya Figurines from Southern California. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 9(3):1–40.

Heizer, Robert F., and Richard K. Beardsley
1943 Fired Clay Figurines in Central and Northern California. *American Antiquity* 9(2):199–207.

Heizer, Robert F., and David M. Pendergast
1955 Additional Data on Fired Clay Human Figurines from California. *American Antiquity* 21(2):181–185.

Howard, William J., and L. Mark Raab
1993 Olivella Grooved Rectangular Beads as Evidence of an Early-Period Southern Channel Islands Interaction Sphere. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 29(3):1–11.

King, Thomas F.
1967 Three Clay Figurines from Marin County. *The Masterkey* 41(4):138–141.

Koerper, Henry C., and Ken Hedges
1996 Patayan Anthropomorphic Figurines from an Orange County Site. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 18(2):204–220.

Langenwalter, Paul E., II
1986 Ritual Animal Burials from the Encino Village Site. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 22(3):63–97.

Langenwalter, Rebecca E.
1980 A Possible Shaman's Cache from CA-RIV-102, Hemet, California. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 2(2):233–244.

Macko, Michael E.
1998 *Neolithic Newport Executive Summary: Results of Implementing Mitigation Measures Specified in the Operation Plan and Research Design for the Proposed Newporter North Residential Development at ORA-64*. Report on file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton.

Mallea-Olaetxe, Joxe
2000 *Speaking Through the Aspens: Basque Tree Carvings in California and Nevada*. University of Nevada Press, Reno.

Mason, Roger D.
1986 Summary of Work Carried Out at CA-LAN-43, the Encino Village Site. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 22(3):35–48.

McKinney, Aileen, and Lavinia Knight
1973 Baked Clay Figurines from Mason Valley, San Diego County: Bowers Museum Strandt Collection. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 9(3):44–47.

Pendergast, David M.
1957 Further Data on Pacific Coast Fired Clay Figurines. *American Antiquity* 23(2):178–180.

Pendleton, Lorann S. A.
1985 Chapter 17. Material Culture: Artifacts of Shell. In *The Archaeology of Hidden Cave, Nevada*, by David Hurst Thomas, pp. 238–250. Anthropological Papers of the Museum of Natural History Vol. 61, Pt. 1. New York.

Porcasi, Judith F.
1998 Middle Holocene Ceramic Technology on the Southern California Coast: New Evidence from Little Harbor, Santa Catalina Island. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 20(2):270–284.

Raab, L. Mark, and William J. Howard
2002 Modeling Cultural Connections Between the Southern Channel Islands and Western United States: The Middle Holocene Distribution of *Olivella* Grooved Rectangle Beads. In *Proceedings of the Fifth California Islands Symposium,* edited by D. R. Brown, K. L. Mitchell, and H. W. Chaney, pp. 590–597. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California.

Sawyer, William A., and Henry C. Koerper
2006 The San Joaquin Hills Venus: A Ceramic Figurine from CA-ORA-1405-B. In *Contributions from Orange County Presented in Remembrance of John Peabody Harrington*, edited by Henry C. Koerper, pp. 13–34. Coyote Press Archives of California Prehistory No. 53. Salinas, California.

Schumacher, Paul
1880 The Methods of Manufacturing Pottery and Baskets Among the Indians of Southern California. *Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology Annual Report* 12(2):521–525. Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Shafer, Harry J.
1975 Clay Figurines from the Lower Pecos Region, Texas. *American Antiquity* 40(2):145–158.

Shepard, Anna O.
1957 *Ceramics for the Archaeologist*. Carnegie Institution of Washington Publication 609. Washington, D.C.

SRS (Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc.)
1980a *Historical Report on the Encino Roadhouse—Privy*. Report prepared for the First Financial Group, Encino, California. On file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton.
1980b *Historical Report on the Encino Roadhouse—Complex*. Report prepared for the First Financial Group, Encino, California. On file, South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton.

Sundberg, Frederick
1985 Geoarchaeology of CA-LAN-43, Encino, California. Manuscript on file, Scientific Resource Surveys, Inc., Orange, California.

Sutton, Mark Q., and Henry C. Koerper
2005 The Middle Holocene Western Nexus: An Interaction Sphere between Southern California and the Northwestern Great Basin. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 41(2 and 3):1–29.

Taylor, R.E., Paul J. Ennis, Louis J. Payen, Christine A. Prior, and Peter J. Slota
1986 Encino Village (CA-LAN-43) Site Radiocarbon Determinations: Geophysical/Geo-chemical Considerations. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 22(3):35–48.

True, Delbert L.
1957 Fired Clay Figurines from San Diego County, California. *American Antiquity* 22(3):291–296.

True, Delbert L., and Claude N. Warren
1961 A Clay Figurine from Santa Monica, California. *The Masterkey* 35(4):152–155.

Van Wormer, Stephen R.
1983 Beer, Wine and Sardines with a Dash of Pepper Sauce: An Analysis of the Glass and Tin Cans of the Encino Roadhouse. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 19(1):47–66.

Vellanoweth, René L.
1995 New Evidence from San Nicholas Island on the Distribution of *Olivella* Grooved Rectangular Beads. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 31(4):13–22.
2001 AMS Radiocarbon Dating and Shell Bead Chronologies: Middle Holocene Trade and Interaction in Western North America. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 28(9):941–950.

Wallace, William J.
1962 Los Encinos State Historical Monument: The Archaeological Record. *Journal of the West* 1(2):170–192.

White, Gregory C.
2013 Familiar Artifacts in Artificial Stone: The Baked Clay Tradition of Prehistoric Northern California. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 47(1 and 2):29–63.

Whitney-Desautels, Nancy A.
1983 The Encino Roadhouse Complex. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 19(1):39–46.

1986a Encino Village: The Three Faces of Cultural Resource Management. *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 22(3):1–8.

1986b The Terrain Conductivity Meter and Relevant Stratigraphy (LAN-43). *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly* 22(3):18–34.