

**You never get anything for nothing  
in this vale of sorrows.**

Philip Phillips, 1958

John Scarry's presentation of a type-variety roster for Fort Walton ceramics is a welcome first step in reviewing and revising something that has long needed it. In two places he tells us that by definition a type cannot be subdivided under the old system. Some of us either did not know this, or chose to ignore it. Willey recognized early and late varieties in four of his types, and I blithely created a number of sub-types for the Lake Jackson material. A need was apparent and like Phillips (1970:23) categories were created "from an endless number of possible variations solely because we think that they are likely to reveal significant relationships." The type-variety approach is designed to facilitate better organization.

I would hesitate to agree with Scarry that it is a system "that lacks weaknesses." It is still a classificatory system whose units represent bundles of attributes, which themselves have variability. We are still drawing lines separating the units we create; this is inevitable. But, I do not look for a perfect system, merely one that will minimize the kinds of problems which Scarry suggests are inherent in the older terminology.

An earlier adoption of a type-variety approach might have aided in avoiding certain confusions. Pinellas Incised in Willey's classification caused some early problems. It was defined from the central coast, given a local name, and not listed in the Fort Walton series by Willey. In my work at Lake Jackson, I found a number of sherds I

felt I had to classify as Pinellas Incised, and to divide into three sub-types (Griffin 1950). Some years later Sears (1967) read what I had written as an argument for deriving Pinellas Incised from the Tampa Bay area into the Lake Jackson area, and from there spreading to Middle Mississippi! This was the opposite of my thinking at the time as the 1950 Safety Harbor report (Griffin and Bullen 1950) stated clearly when we said that both Fort Walton and Safety Harbor were "the results of Mississippi influence through time." We also said "the name Pinellas Incised is not too apt", and I believe now the very name of the type and the variation included in it caused the confusion. Sears went on to subdivide the type into Cool Branch Incised, Lake Jackson Incised, and Pinellas Incised, terms which are retained in Scarry's roster.

Scarry notes that he has been challenged on his Wakulla Check Stamped, and I think rightly so. I cannot see throwing the Deptford types into that pot, even as varieties, unless one is going to erect a supertype which encompasses all sand-tempered check-stamped pottery of the Southeast. Brown (1982) has made a stab at the problem from the Louisiana end, and we all recognize the need for dealing with the entire problem, but this may not be the time or place to reach a ready solution.

For the most part Scarry's proposed system deals with the Fort Walton area and Fort Walton Period, which is in line with some earlier discussions of the type-variety approach which stressed systems bounded within a phase or period. The broader approach to Wakulla Check Stamped is the exception to this approach in the present work.

Perhaps other systems for other periods in the general area need to be proposed before we can deal realistically with a long continuum like check stamping.

This paper represents a viable and valuable contribution to a long standing series of problems in organizing our data. Let's hope that it will be used to build upon rather than being used without modification for another three or four decades.

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