

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

The THPO Collections team recently traveled to the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, where staff graciously took the time to show us their pottery collections and teach us about the different tools and techniques we can utilize in our artifact analyses. Since returning from our trip, we have already been putting our newly acquired knowledge to use. We've started a new project where we're looking back through our pottery collection and reassessing the types. This month's artifact is one of these reidentified pieces.

This pottery sherd, pictured below, was originally identified in 2007 as St. Johns cord marked pottery. St. Johns pottery can be distinguished by its spiculate paste and chalky surface (Butts, 2013), and several types within the St. Johns series feature different surface decorations. One of these decorative types is cord marked pottery, which was commonly made by wrapping cord around a paddle and impressing the pattern onto the clay (Pluckhahn & Cordell, 1994).

When we reexamined this sherd, we found that although it is decorated St. Johns pottery, it lacks the distinct cord impressions you would find on cord marked pottery. Rather, the decorations on this sherd more closely resemble simple stamped pottery. Pictured below, you can see examples of St. Johns cord marked and St. Johns simple stamped, respectively. Take a look and compare the decorations of each of these sherds for yourself!



St. Johns Cord Marked (*Florida Museum of Natural History*)



St. Johns Simple Stamped (*Florida Museum of Natural History*)



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To learn more about all the incredible artifacts within our collection, please visit the THPO website at www.stofthpo.com.

Works Cited

Butts, B. (2013). Tempering in Southern Pottery. *Central States Archaeological Journal*, 60(3), 135–136. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43143178>

Pluckhahn, T. J., and Cordell, A. S. (1994). *Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville. <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00061992/00001/pdf>

