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“Movement of Ceramics in Prehistoric Western Illinois Examined through Infrared Analysis”

Migration of Native Americans in prehistoric Illinois is considered a major factor in cultural developments during multiple time periods. One way to track those human population movements is through the movement of ceramics Native Americans carried with them. Movement of ceramics can also indicate trade. This paper examines one method for determining the movement of ceramics, infrared analysis of ceramic molecular structures, and results of our preliminary efforts to build a spectral library for prehistoric ceramics from Illinois.