



## Native American Smoking Pipes:

A Focus on Plains Indians Bowls and Stems

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## Introduction

- Purposes tobacco served in daily life of Plains Indians and Iroquois
- Differences between pre- and post-contact periods
- Comparison between Plains Indians and Iroquois smoking cultures

## Research Questions

- Literature exists on Plains pipes
  - Why was tobacco so important to Plains Indians?
  - Who was allowed to smoke tobacco?



[www.muiniskw.org/pgCulture2a.htm](http://www.muiniskw.org/pgCulture2a.htm)

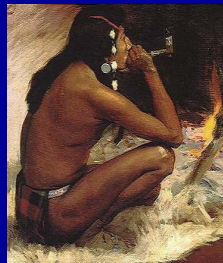
## Background

- Catlinite?
- Calumet Ceremony Origins
- Iroquois pipes made of clay
- Plains peoples stems of wood and bowls of catlinite



## Methods

- Analyzed pre-contact oral histories
- Analyzed SIUE museum artifacts
- Variables:
  - Bead size
  - Fur and rawhide
  - Brass studs



[nashvillefiles.com/blog/archives/001373.html](http://nashvillefiles.com/blog/archives/001373.html)

## Stems and Bowls

- Connection of two pieces only warranted prior to smoking, usually specifically ceremonial
- Disconnection of stem and bowl concludes ceremonies
- 10 stems, 10 bowls analyzed
- All Plains Indians stems and bowls

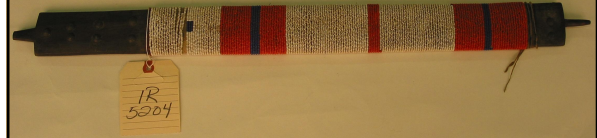
## Stems

- Typical Plains Indian Stem
- Thunderbird Motif
- Horsetracks Motif



### Stem 1

- Typical Plains Indian Stem



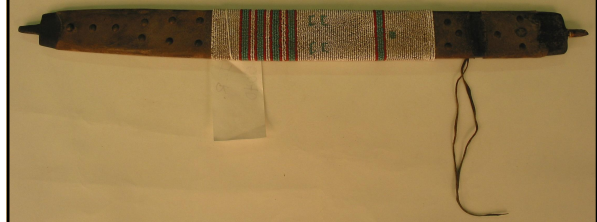
### Stem 2

- Thunderbird motif
- Interpretations



### Stem 3

- Horse tracks
- Interpretations



## Bowls

- Elbow-shaped
- L-shaped
- Effigy
- Inlaid

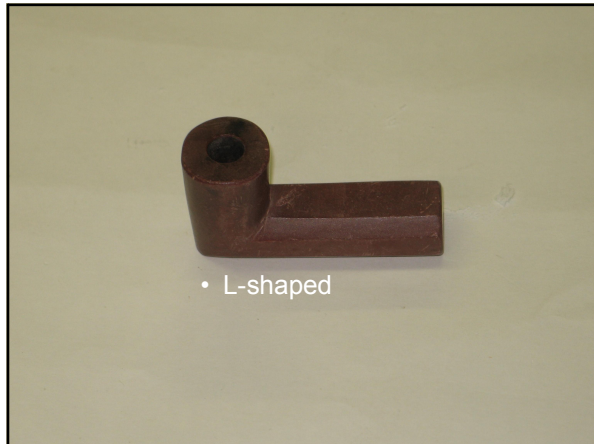


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<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/lewisandclark/images/ree0048as.jpg>



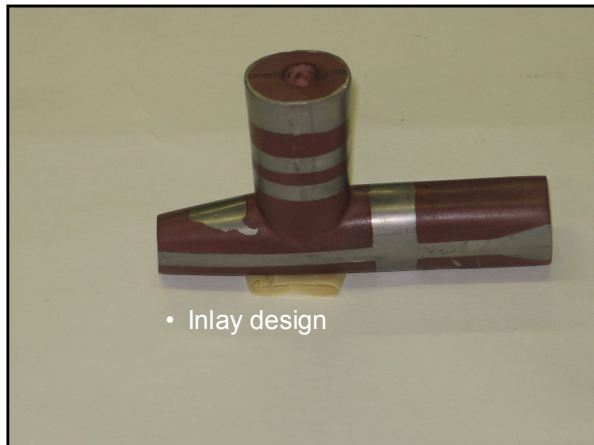
- Elbow-shaped



- L-shaped



- Effigy



- Inlay design

## Results

- Healers as well as ordinary peoples in Plains peoples culture
- No research indicating smoking of tobacco by women in Iroquois cultures
- Important to Plains and Iroquois peoples for ceremonial significance
  - Calumet
  - Iroquois religion



## Conclusion

- Ceremonial (Plains)
  - Sundance
  - Communication with spirits
- Medicinal (Plains)
- Smoked subsequent to contact
- Iroquois more ceremonial
- Problem
  - Lack of information

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