

ABSTRACT

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF POTTERY IN JAMAICA

Norma Rodney Harrack

This research paper looks at the progression of pottery-making in Jamaica from its earliest manifestation to the present. It is an illustrated, comprehensive account that begins in Chapter one with the origins of clay and deposits of Jamaican clays.

Chapter two chronicles the five components that span the period 1655 to 1810: (i) Taino, (ii) Spanish, (iii) European, (iv) African, while Chapter three examines the Syncretic complex that evolved the major components. The approach is chronological with an ethnic outlook, since our history progressed with waves of varying ethnic occupation.

The final chapters explore the modern history of Jamaican ceramics and analyze the development of ceramics as a medium of personal expression by artists and studio potters of the twentieth century. The work traces the use of clay not solely for domestic wares but for decorative purposes as well. It examines the advances made by artist-potters' involvement in different expressions and in studio related production. It also traces the stylistic and technological developments, the potter's wheel, kilns, clays and glazes.

Sufficient details have been documented in this research paper to interest the more knowledgeable reader, yet it is essentially a historical introduction to one of the oldest and most exciting art forms, and as such, will hopefully serve as a springboard for further research and investigation.

Keywords: Norma Rodney Harrack; pottery-making; ceramics; clay.