ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT
CALEDONIA, CAYO DISTRICT, BELIZE

A Thesis Submitted to the Committee on Graduate Studies
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts
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by
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Proper acknowledgement must be made to Trent University
on publication of the thesis or parts of it.
Abstract

The thesis reports on archaeological investigations executed in 1980 and 1984 at the site of Caledonia in the Cayo District of Belize. These investigations, which included survey, excavations and artefact analysis, indicate that the site was first occupied in the Late Preclassic and finally abandoned between Terminal Classic and Early Post-Classical times. During this period of occupation the site was involved with the development of intensive systems of agriculture, the successful exploitation of local resources and regional and intraregional exchange.

Interaction patterns suggested by artefactual remains indicate that the site initially participated with the cultural developments of the central Peten, gradually became culturally affiliated with the Belize Valley and sites to the north, then subsequently renewed its ties with sites in the southwestern Peten.

Besides providing cultural and chronological information, the research has also offered several observations and questions for future consideration. Foremost among these are whether other sites in the Chiquibul share the socio-political and cultural developments reflected by Caledonia, and whether the latter site indeed controlled the supply of granite to sites in the south and beyond. It is hoped that future studies will focus on these and other problems and that they will provide us with more data and information on this poorly known region of the Maya Lowlands.
Acknowledgements

Archaeological investigations of whatever size or scope can never be realized without the unselfish support of far too many people to mention in a few paragraphs. Nevertheless, to all those who in some way or another contributed to this research, I wish to express my gratitude.

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The excavations, surveying and processing of archaeological material was done by members of the 2nd Trent/Belize Archaeological Field School (listed below). I am grateful for their hard work, enthusiasm and willingness to adapt to the rigors of archaeology in a foreign land.

Poly Barker       Allan Moore       Melissa Campbell       Kitty Emery
Grenville Parkinson       Heather Darch       Susan Smith       Eric Wood
Lori Wright

Original illustrations in the report were drawn by Joel Boriek, Lori Wright, Linda Zernask and the writer. Inking of sections, maps and architectural sketches are the work of Melissa Campbell and the author. Appreciation is extended for the professional help of all the above.

Last and certainly not least, I wish to thank my family. I owe special gratitude to my wife, Cindy and my son, Christopher, for their forbearance during my absences and frustrations, and who provided editorial assistance and unselfish support during the long process of this research. I thank my in-laws, Ken, Dorothy, and Cheri Bennett, for their interest and encouragement throughout the project. And finally, a special thanks to my parents, brothers and sisters who always believed in me and gave me guidance and support throughout my academic career. None of this would have been possible without them.
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CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

RESEARCH DESIGN

Located in the Vaca Plateau region of the Chiquibul Forest Reserve of Belize (Fig. 1), the site of Caledonia was first discovered in 1979 by members of the Scottish Highland “Black Watch” Battalion of the British Army. Subsequently, members of the 1980 Trent University Cayo Archaeological Project, involved with research in this region of the Cayo district, conducted a preliminary survey and minor excavation of the site (Healy et al. 1983a). This research was basically a rescue operation initiated as a result of looting activities at the site. Results of the Trent work indicated that despite its small size, the site not only warranted further investigation, but could provide valuable information regarding site function, regional chronology and prehistoric exchange.

Previous archaeological research in the Chiquibul region has been very limited. In comparison with northern and central Belize and other areas of the Maya Lowlands, the Chiquibul region is relatively an information vacuum. Barring the investigation of several cave sites by Pendergast (1969, 1970, 1971), the only surface sites that have received attention are Mountain Cow and Camp Six (Thompson 1931), Caracol (Satterthwaite 1951, 1954; Anderson 1958, 1959; Beetz and Satterthwaite 1981; Healy et al. 1983b), Maria Camp (Pendergast 1965), Blue Hole Camp (Healy 1983) and
FIGURE 1: Map of the Maya Area. Hatching designates area of study. (After Healy et al. 1983a)
Zayden Creek (Healy et al. 1980). As Pendergast (1971) indicated earlier, this general lack of information for the region made the sequential and chronological placement of cultural material difficult. Furthermore, this meager corpus of information is still “the basis for assessing the position of the Chiquibul in Maya prehistory” (Pendergast 1971:116). In view of this it was obvious that archaeological investigations at Caledonia could provide useful chronological and socio-political information, and add significantly to the knowledge of this poorly known region of the Maya Lowlands.

The presence of exotic material in a relatively elaborate and rich tomb, indicated that Caledonia might have also been involved in either local or intraregional exchange. This possibility is further supported by the fact that the site is located at the headwaters of the eastern branch of the Belize River, a major artery with connections to the large sites in the Peten, Belize Valley and beyond. Furthermore, the site is situated beside one of the only known sources of granite in the Maya Lowlands (Shipley 1978).

Archaeologically, granite is generally found in the form of manos and metates and widely distributed at Maya sites (Rathje 1972; Sidrys and Andresen 1976). Together, these two traditional implements were employed in the grinding of corn and other grains. Because of its durability and Mayan dependence on corn consumption as a major staple, granite must have been a commodity in high demand. Thus, even though no trace element studies were
conducted, we felt Caledonia, because of its strategic location, was not only involved in the distribution of granite manos and metates, but had the potential to reveal information regarding the exploitation of granite in time and space.

Finally, our interest to carry out archaeological research at Caledonia was in part a product of the growing trend to focus attention on the smaller sites of the Maya Lowlands. As Hammond (1982a:172) states, “…the smaller sites in between and the minor ceremonial centers have so far received little attention.” Considering our small budget and logistically advantageous location of Caledonia, we felt that concentrating our time and effort here would result in a better understanding of the role of this and subsequently, other small sites within the Maya Lowlands and Maya prehistory.
Previous Archaeological Research in the Mountain Pine Ridge and Chiquibul Regions

Mountain Pine Ridge Region

In 1928 Gregory Mason of the New York Museum of the American Indian (Heye Foundation) carried out some of the earliest archaeological research in the Mountain Pine Ridge region of Belize. At this time he briefly explored Rio Frio Caves A, B, and C, located within 3km northwest of Augustine (Figs. 2 & 3). Following his research Mason (1928) published a brief descriptive article on the pottery and artefacts he had discovered.

Between 1950 and 1962, Hamilton Anderson (then Archaeological Commissioner of Belize) located two other caves belonging to the same cave system. These new sites were named Rio Frio Caves D and E (Anderson 1962). Due to Anderson’s untimely illness and eventual death, he was never able to publish formal reports on this work. Fortunately, David Pendergast was able to acquire Anderson’s notes and subsequently publish the observations and analyses he and Anderson had made (Pendergast 1970). Pendergast noted that the artefactual remains of the sites indicated a Late Classic (Tepeu 2 and 3) occupation. Furthermore, the ceramic assemblage expressed close similarities with material from Xunantunich and sites in the Belize Valley.
FIGURE 2: Map of Belize. Inset is enlarged in Figure 3. (After Healy 1983: Fig. 1)
Perhaps it should be pointed that although I have included the Rio Frio Caves within the Pine Ridge region, they are actually located in a “borderland zone.” Geologically, this zone is a projection of the Vaca Plateau into the granitic borders of the Pine Ridge (Pendergast 1970).

Archaeological sites in the granitic Mountain Pine Ridge are rare. This paucity of sites has been attributed to the poor acidic soils of the region which are not conducive of arable farming (Wright et al. 1959). Nonetheless, in the 1930’s, Thompson (1938) excavated and reported on a small number of cairns in the region. According to his report a few pottery sherds, including incensario fragments, were found. This material however, did not allow him to discern the sites’ dates of construction or occupation.

More recently, Bullard (1963) reported on a shrine site located approximately 4km north of Augustine near the Rio On. The site is comprised of a single platform structure and two possible altars. The location of the altar in front of a natural granite outcrop suggested to Bullard that the outcrop might have been analogous to a stela. Although no excavation was attempted, surface finds included an obsidian blade fragment and a small unidentifiable potsherd. Like Thompson's (1938) earlier investigations of the cairn, these cultural remains provided little useful historical information. There is a possibility, however, that the shrine might have been dedicated to a granite source utilized by the prehistoric Maya (Bullard 1963).
FIGURE 3: Map of southern Cayo District indicating the location of Caledonia. Other significant archaeological sites are: 1-Caracol, 2-Mountain Cow, 3-Eduardo Quiroz Cave, 4-Maria Camp, 5-Camp Six, 6-Xunantunich, 7-Barton Ramie, 9-Baking Pot, 9-Pacbitun, 16-Rio Frio Caves, 11-Zayden Creek, 12-Blue Hole Camp, 13-Las Cuevas, 14-Tipu (Negroman).
(After Healy 1983: Fig. 2)
Eric Thompson was the first to initiate archaeological fieldwork in the Chiquibul region. Terminating his involvement with the British Museum’s research expedition to Lubaantun, Thompson returned to Belize in 1928-1929 (under the auspices of the Field Museum of Chicago) and conducted a series of investigations on the Mountain Cow Complex and Camp 6.

Located approximately 10km south of Caledonia, the Mountain Cow Complex comprises four minor sites or mound groups situated within a 3.5km by 5.15km area (Thompson 1931). The complex includes the minor ceremonial center of Cahal Pichik and Hatzap Ceel, and the two residential units of Cahal Cunil and Tzimin Kax. Although their ceramic assemblages dated from the Late Preclassic through the Late Classic Periods, Thompson was of the opinion the ceremonial and residential components of the complex only functioned as a unit in the Late Classic.

This opinion probably stemmed from Thompson's previous misconception which regarded ceremonial centers as “empty ritual precincts amid scattered rural settlements” (Hammond 1982b:352). Willey and Bullard (1965) and Ashmore and Willey (1981) nevertheless, credit Thompson's work in the Chiquibul as one of the earliest attempts at settlement pattern studies in the Maya Lowlands.
Located approximately 7km north-northwest of Caledonia, Camp 6 was mapped and partially excavated by Thompson following his work at Mountain Cow. The site consists of seven mounds that form two plazuela groups. Ceramic remains found in a votive cache were identified as Holmul 5 material. This, plus other similarities between the material from Camp 6 and Mountain Cow, suggested to Thompson (1931) that both sites were contemporaneous.

In 1938 Anderson visited and named the site of Caracol, shortly after its discovery by mahogany cutters (Beetz and Satterthwaite 1981). The site is located approximately 16 km southwest of Caledonia. A few years later (1950) Anderson and Linton Satterthwaite revisited the site and conducted preliminary mapping and investigations.

This survey identified the site as being a major ceremonial center, covering an area of more than 3 square km (Satterthwaite 1951). Within the ceremonial precinct, 40 carved and plain monuments were discovered. Unique among these were a number of giant-glyph altars displaying bar-dot dates associated with large stylized *ahau* glyphs. Between 1951 and 1953, Satterthwaite returned, conducting more excavations and supervising the removal of most of the carved monuments for export to the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania.

Three years later (1956) Anderson excavated two structures and located a well-preserved slate stela. This stela was eventually
removed from the site in 1978 by the Belize Department of Archaeology. Initial series dates on the stelae indicated and Early to Late Classic occupation of the site, however Carbon 14 analysis of a wooden lintel produced a date of A.D. 200 (Anderson 1958; Beetz and Satterthwaite 1981). Recent work by Trent University (Healy et al. 1983b) produced several radiocarbon dates ranging from A.D. 20 to A.D. 910, indicating that the site was occupied at least by Late Preclassic times and probably abandoned during the Terminal Classic.

In 1957 Anderson and Adrian Digby of the British Museum worked at Las Cuevas (Awe Caves). While Digby excavated a number of platforms within the cave, Anderson explored and mapped a small surface site located above the caves (Digby 1958; Anderson 1962). Two years later, Anderson investigated Cubeta Cave. This cave is located approximately 10 km south-southeast of Caledonia in an area of intensive agricultural terraces. According to Anderson (1962), the site contained an abundance of ceramic remains. There was also a great deal of masonry construction in the form of platforms and artificial terracing within the cave. Unfortunately, no historical information was offered by Anderson.

Anderson visited Eduardo Quiroz Cave shortly after its discovery in 1959. Named after its discoverer, the site is situated 18km south-southeast of Caledonia. Anderson (1962) reported seeing large quantities of pottery sherds that included slipped, incised, fluted, polychrome and plain material. A more thorough investigation of
the cave was finally made in 1963 when Pendergast mapped and excavated the site. Pendergast (1971) found a number of burials plus extensive masonry construction within some of the cave chambers. Furthermore, ceramic remains indicated that the site may have been used as early as the Terminal Preclassic and as late as the initial phase of the Postclassic (Pendergast 1971).

Following his study at Eduardo Quiroz, Pendergast (1965) did some test excavations at Maria Camp, a surface site lying approximately 7km east-southeast of Caledonia. As in other sites in the vicinity, cultural remains at this locale were primarily Classic in date.

Pendergast continued his interest in the region by mapping and excavating at Actun Balam in 1964. Here he reported finding a large quantity of potsherds, marine shells of Atlantic species and some obsidian blades. Ceramic remains indicated that prehistoric activity was concentrated in the Late Classic, while obsidian and shell remains suggested long distance exchange (Pendergast 1969).

Except for the retrieval of the Caracol slate stela in 1978 and periodic visits to sites by the Belize Department of Archaeology, there was no archaeological activity in the Chiquibul area between 1965 and 1978. This period of inactivity was finally terminated in 1979 by the Trent University-Cayo Archaeological Project. Under the direction of Paul F. Healy, this two-year (1979-1080) project focused on the location and investigation of prehistoric agricultural terraces (Healy et al. 1980).
Initially the research concentrated around Mountain Cow and Zayden Creek, the latter located 2km south of Caledonia. In the second year, terraces and associated housemounds on the eastern periphery of Caracol’s ceremonial precinct, plus housemounds at Zayden Creek, were mapped and excavated.

According to Healy et al. (1980, 1983b), the data recovered suggested that though prehistoric activity may have commenced in the Preclassic, it was concentrated in the Classic Period. The research also suggested a considerable density around Caracol supported by intensive agriculture and reinforcing this site’s prominence as a major ceremonial center.

Concurrent with these studies, Healy (1983:152) located and investigated an ancient Maya dam at Blue Hole Camp. The dam is located on a tributary of the Raspaculo branch of the Macal River, approximately 15km southeast of Caledonia. Several survey transects radiating from the dam located a few housemounds on the summits of outlying hills. Excavations behind the dam wall recovered a number of potsherds and produced a carbon 14 date of approximately A.D. 500. Healy (1983) suggested that though the sherds were probably washed into the “quebrada,” they, and the radiocarbon date, did indicate occupation and possibly construction of the dam in the Classic Period.
The Trent Project concluded with the preliminary work (previously mentioned and detailed below) at Caledonia. Presently, Thomas Miller of Washington State University (personal communication) is conducting geomorphological studies on a number of the caves in the Chiquibul; Bernie Walsh (1985) is analyzing data from Caracol; and Arlen and Diane Chase (University of Central Florida) intend to commence extensive investigations at Caracol in the near future (A. Chase personal communication).
BIOGEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

The site of Caledonia is located on the Vaca Plateau within the Chiquibul Forest Reserve, about 16km south of Augustine Forestry Station, in the southern part of the Cayo District, Belize (Fig. 3). It is situated atop a low hill and rise on the west bank of the Macal River, about 1km downstream from the Guacamayo Bridge. This area is approximately 400m above sea level. Although the site is politically and geographically considered to be within limestone-based Vaca Plateau, ecologically it lies at the juxtaposition of this region and the granitic, pine-forested Pine Ridge region.

According to Wright et al. (1959:23) the Mountain Pine Ridge-Vaca Plateau regions are chiefly formed from hard Paleozoic rocks. These rocks are both argillaceous and arenaceous in texture and were laid down during two separate stages of sedimentation. Subsequently, these sediments were intruded by molten rocks which, upon cooling and eventual cementing by silicates, gave rise to areas to granite, porphyrite and quartzite. Between Paleozoic and Cretaceous times, the entire mountainous range was submerged beneath the sea on numerous occasions. This resulted with the deposition of dense layers of limestone over the entire area (Dixon 1956; Wright et al. 1959). Following the Cretaceous and subsequent uplift of the mountains, a large part of this limestone mantle has eroded away establishing what is now known as the Mountain Pine Ridge Region.
This region covers an area of approximately 777 square kms. (Wright et al. 1959). It is characterized by soils which derive from granite, shale, sandstone, quartzite and some limestone (Fig. 4). Due to the acidity caused by these soil-forming materials, the region is unsuitable for arable farming but does support what Wright et al. (1959) call “orchard savanna.” This is represented by deciduous seasonal forests which include a mixture of oak (*Quercus citrifolia*; *Q. hondurensis*; *Q. sapotaefolia*), pine (*Curatella americana*; *Clusia sp.*), silver pimento palms (*Thrinax argentea*) and craboo (*Brysonima crassifolia*) (Wright et al. 1959).

The agriculturally nonproductive nature of the region has been held responsible for the lack of archaeological sites in the Mountain Pine Ridge. However, various authors (e.g., Thompson 1939; Bullard 1965; Willey et al. 1965; Rathje 1972 and Sidrys and Andresen 1976; Awe n.d.) have suggested that the region was a source of granite, exploited by the Maya for the manufacturing of manos and metates. Large fragments of a pine torch from Tiger Bay Cave (in Belize Department of Archaeology collection) also suggest that pine may have been exploited for use as torches.

South of the Macal River, the Chiquibul region and forest reserve covers an area of over 849 km square (Johnson and Chaffey 1973:9). This region is still covered by the dense mantle of limestone deposited during the Cretaceous Period (Wright et al. 1959:23). According to Johnson and Chaffey (1973:13) these
deposits are very karstic, causing most of the drainage of the region to be subterranean. The only rivers located in the region are the Chiquibul running along its southern border and the Macal and its tributaries to the north. Other small surface streams are either
seasonal or tend to siphon underground a short distance from their source.

The vegetation is described by Wright et al. (1959:178) as semi-evergreen forest. This is characterized by an immense variety of floral species among which are economically known types such as mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla), sapodilla (Manilkara zapota), nargusta (Terminalia oleovata), rosewood (Brosimum alicastrum), and the cohune palm (Orbignya cohune) (Wright et al. 1959:178; Johnson and Chaffey 1973:15-17).

As a result of its proximity to the Macal River and because it lies in an ecologically transitional zone, the environment around Caledonia differs slightly from that of the greater Chiquibul region. Between the site and the river there appears to be two vegetational and geological sub-divisions (Fig. 5). That nearest the site is typical of hillside forests in the Chiquibul. The vegetation and geology on the floodplain differs considerably. The soils here are sandy loams with a few granite boulders protruding to the surface near the banks of the river. The hillside vegetation also gradually gives way to dense shrub and dumbcane (Tripsicum latifolium), with a few giant fig trees (Ficus galbrata) occurring along the bank.
Fauna

A detailed description of the fauna of this region is given by Johnson and Chaffey (1973:1820). Those species observed near Caledonia by the author and other members of the Trent-Cayo Archaeological Project are described below.

Aquatic and aquatic related species include the crocodile (Crocodylus moreletii), iguana (Iguana iguana), catfish (Siluraidei), gar (Lepisosteidae), carp and minnow (Cyprinidae), fresh-water mussel (Nephronaias ortmanni), and river snails locally known as “jute” (Pachycilius largillierti). Most of these species are edible, but the first three, by virtue of size, provide more food per unit.

The terrestrial species observed are more numerous and variable in range. Birds include economically viable types such as the great curassow (Crax rubra), ocellated turkey (Meliagris ocellata), the crested guan (Penelope purpurascens), the chachalaca (Ortalis vetula), scarlet macaw (Ara macao), king vulture (Sarcoramphus papa) montezuma oropendula (Gymnostinops montezuma) and the keel-billed toucan (Ramphastos sulfuratus). Besides being a source of food, most of these species provided a large array of beautiful feathers; an item very likely exported by the Chiquibul Maya.

Terrestrial mammals recorded include the locally known “mountain cow” or tapir (Tapirella bairdii), the savanna deer (Odocoileus truei), the antelope (species unknown), puma (Felis concolor),
jaguar (*Felis jaguarondi*), peccary (*Dicotyles tajuca*), howler monkey (*Alouata villosa*), and the paca or gibnut (*Coelogenys paca*). Most of these species could also be exploited for subsistence or for their material value (e.g. skins). This would have been especially true for the jaguar and puma, and possible the peccary.

**Climate**

The climatic pattern for this region, and Belize in general, can be divided into two seasons; a wet and a dry. The dry season usually begins towards the end of January and terminates about the middle of May. With the exception of a “little dry” period in August, the rainy season is predominant for the rest of the year. This “little dry” or “meager season” is represented by a drop in rainfall of about 28mm from the wet season high of 190.8 mm per month and is due,
in part, to a dry westerly wind that dominates the weather at this time (Wright et al. 1959). According to Wright et al. (1959:21) this short dry spell is considerable more marked in the Maya Mountains than in the rest of the country.

The mean annual rainfall recorded at Millionario and the Augustine Forest Station between 1949 and 1970 is 560.1 mm (61.43”), with a mean number of rainy days equaling 153.9 days (Johnson and Chaffey 1973:9-11). Temperature data recorded at Cooma Cairn and Augustine shows a mean annual maximum of 29 degrees C (84 degrees F), with a considerable drop in January and February. During these months temperatures as low as 6 degrees C (42 degrees F), have been recorded (Johnson and Chaffey 1973:11). Mean annual humidity for the area is 82%, but varies between 70% in May and 90% in January (Johnson and Chaffey 1973:11).

Easterly trade winds predominate between November and April, however, they are periodically replaced by “northers” originating in North America (Johnson and Chaffey 1973:11-12).

These “northers” are cold northerly winds usually associated with a drop in temperature and light rain. Between May and October the winds are predominantly from the south. These winds introduce the rainy season and along with them, occasional tropical storms and hurricanes may develop (Wright et al. 1959). The worst of these storms to hit the Chiquibul and Pine Ridge in recent times was Hurricane Hattie in 1961. This storm destroyed large areas of forest
and caused the Macal River to flood approximately 25’ above its normal level.
CHAPTER 2 – INVESTIGATIONS

Site Description

According to the Transverse Mercator Grid System employed by the Belize Department of Archaeology for denoting site location, Caledonia is the third site reported in grid square north 28 and east 186 (28/186:3). In this area, elevation above sea level ranges from about 400 to 600 meters and is approximately 550 meters in the site vicinity. The principal part of the site covers an area of approximately two hectares (5 acres) and consists of two clusters of mounds on a narrow strip of lands along the southern bank of the Macal River (Fig. 6).

Located in the northwestern end of the site, the smaller of the two mound clusters consists of two connected plazuela groups perched on the summit of an L-shaped hill. On the north side, the flat-topped hill slopes steeply towards the Macal River, some 36 meters below, and descends gently to the south and east. This cluster of mounds is easily divisible into two distinct units; Plaza A on the south side of the hilltop and Plaza B on the north side (Fig. 7).

Plaza A consists of six mounds and stands about one meter higher than Plaza B. The two largest mounds (labeled Structures A-1 and
FIGURE 6: Topographic map of Caledonia.
FIGURE 7: Topographic map of plazas A & B.
A-2) flank the northern and southern edges of the plaza. Structure (henceforth Str.) A-1 stands 3.2 meters above the plaza floor and measures 4.5 by 3.6 meters at its base. At the top of the structure a small looters’ pit had exposed several blocks of cut stone, suggesting that the mound might have once had a vaulted superstructure. From its summit in prehistoric times, this structure would have also provided a fine view of Cotton Tree Creek and Groups C and D to the southeast, and the Macal River and Pine Ridge to the northeast.

Standing four meters tall and 4.8 meters by 3.2 meters at its base, Str. A-2 was the only building to connect both plaza units. Structures A-3, A-4 and A-5 all appear to be low residential-type platforms that could have once supported perishable superstructures. A-3 flanks the eastern edge of the plaza and measures 1.4 meters in height and 8.2 by 2.3 meters at its base. On the western flank A-4 and A-5 share approximately the same base dimensions (3.5m by 1.8m) with A-4 slightly taller than A-5.

Located about 1.5 meters from the southwestern corner of A-2, in line with the central axis of A-1, A-6 is the most unusual structure of Plaza A. This small structure measures one meter by one meter with and average height to 30 centimeters. It is the only square structure at the site and is bordered by a line of cut stones along its edges.
Plaza B comprises three low-lying and presumably residential mounds. B-1 is six meters by 2.2 meters at its base with an average height of one meter. B-2 and B-3 are both approximately 2.5 meters by 2 meters at their base with B-3 (70cm) slightly taller than B-2 (60cm). A sizeable looters’ hole was found in B-3. Remarkably, a carved jade pendant (Fig. 137a) was recovered in the backfill of this cavity suggesting that the looters had worked carelessly.

The second cluster of mounds is located on a flattened ridge of land, 31 meters lower in elevation, approximately 120 meters southeast of Plaza A (Fig. 8). The mounds overlook the Macal River about 15 meters to the north and Cotton Tree Creek a few meters to the west. As with the previous cluster we divided this second group into two units; Group C and Plaza D.

Group C consists of a large open plaza (Plaza C) enclosed by four mounds, a ballcourt (C-7 and C-8), and three presumably residential structures (C-5, C-6 and C-9) to the north and west of the plaza. The four structures enclosing Plaza C were labeled C-1, C-2, C-3 and C-4. Situated at the north end of the plaza and standing five meters tall and five meters by four meters at its base, Str. C-1 is the tallest and most impressive structure at the site. A looters’ trench, located on the top of the mound, had exposed the upper section of a large vaulted room with patches of red paint still preserved and adhering to the plastered walls.
FIGURE 8: Topographic map of plazas C & D.
On the east side of the plaza, Str. C-2 measures four meters tall and 4.2 meters by 3.8 meters along its base. This is the second tallest structure at the site and, unlike C-1, fortunately had not been looted. Along the south side of the plaza, C-3 is the longest and largest (in mass) structure at the site. It measures 11.5 meters long by four meters wide and is an average of 2.5 meters tall. Morphologically, the structure appears to be a large residential platform that could have once supported a perishable superstructure. Unlike other residential platforms it is also the only one that has an “outset stairway” along its primary axis. The western side of the plaza is bounded by Str. C-4. Like Str. C-3, C-4 appears to be another residential platform. The structure is eight meters long by three meters wide with an average height of .75 meters.

Flanking Str. C-1 to the northwest and northeast respectively, C-5 and C-6 may be small residential units. The former is a low-lying mound approximately one meter tall, three meters long and two meters wide; while the latter is about 1.5 meters tall and four meters by three meters at its base. Just east of C-2, Strs. C-7 and C-8 share approximately the same dimensions. Both are about three meters tall and six meters by 3.5 meters at their base. Furthermore, both structures sit parallel to each other and fit Smith’s (1972:121-122) description of “open-end” type ballcourts.

The smallest structure of Group C was Str. C-9. Situated west of Plaza C, approximately midway between Str. C-4 and Cotton Tree Creek, this mound is two meters long by 1.5 meters wide and barely
.25 meters tall. Along the northern and western sides of the structure, a line of well cut limestone blocks were exposed. Like C-5 and C-6, it is quite likely that C-6 is also a residential unit.

Plaza D consists of four small, low-lying mounds located a few meters to the northeast of Str. C-7 and Str. C-8. At the west end of the small plaza, D-1 stands about .20 meters tall and 2.5 meters by two meters at its base. Overlooking the Macal River to the north, D-2 is the largest structure within this plazuela. It is three meters long by 2.20 meters wide and approximately .40 meters tall. Str. D-3 and Str. D-4 were barely discernible. Both structures seem to have been destroyed by road construction associated with logging operations in the early part of this century. Indeed, an old logging trail is still identifiable along the western edge of Str. D-3 and just south of Str. C-8. Support for this observation is further provided by an abandoned iron rail found lying across Str. D-3. Nevertheless, like D-1 and D-2, it is plausible to believe that both Str. D-3 and Str. D-4 might have also been residential platforms.
Miscellaneous Associated Site Features

Approximately midway between the two mound clusters, there is a small residential platform (See Fig. 6). This is suggested by an exposed line of cut stones along the southern edge of the small mound. Due to our research bias and available time, however, we were unable to investigate this much further.

Cotton Tree Creek practically divides the site in two. Like the Macal River, it is a perennial source of water. Furthermore, both streams support a fairly large population of aquatic life which could have added tremendously to subsistence resources.

A presently dry creek bed running along the southern base of the hill upon which Plazas A and B site may have also been flowing in prehistoric times.

At the source of a narrow seasonal tributary of Cotton Tree Creek, approximately .75 kilometers south of the site, is a small cave at the bottom of a large hill. At the mouth of the cave there are tow small chambers containing a large quantity of jar sherds and mano and metate fragments. Just west of the cave entrance, still below the cliff face, there is a series of small plastered terraces, similar to those reported in other caves in the Chiquibul (See Pendergast 1962, 1964, 1969, 1971.). Considering the short distance from Caledonia to the cave, it is very likely that the occupants of the site might have
been exploiting the cave as a source of “zuhuyha” (“Holy” water, See Thompson 1959).

The pine forested Pine Ridge is one of the most important features associated with the site. As previously indicated, this region provides a wide variety of resources. Among these are numerous species of mammals (namely deer), sources of granite, and pine and pine resin for torches and pitch.

Finally, extensive hillside terraces have been reported by Healy et al. (1979; 1980) just to the south of Caledonia. Indeed, the remains of hillside terraces are found throughout the entire region. The presence of these features around the site’s periphery were undoubtedly associated with Caledonia's agricultural and subsistence base.
Investigations in 1980 and 1984

The first investigations carried out at Caledonia were conducted in June of 1980, shortly after the discovery of the site and towards the end of the two year Trent-Cayo Archaeological Project. This preliminary work was conducted over a period of three weeks. It included the mapping of Plazas A and B and a total of 5 excavation units. Three of the excavations focused on Str. A-1; the other two were placed on Plaza A and Str.B-3. The reasons for concentrating on Str. A-1 were that in addition to evidence suggesting that the building was ceremonial in nature, the structure also displayed evidence of looting.

The second phase of investigation at Caledonia was conducted in June and July of 1984. Initially the major goals of this season were to excavate Str. A-2 and at least two residential structures in Plazas A and B respectively. Prior to commencing our investigations, however, our foreman located two new plazuela groups (Group C and Plaza D), proving the site to be twice as large as previously estimated. As a result of this discovery our plans and goals were revised. The end product of this reorientation was a complete focus on Group C, specifically Str. C-1 and Str. C-2. The reasons for this choice were threefold. First it became clear that Plaza C was obviously the central precinct of the site. Secondly, C-1 showed obvious signs of having been the recent target of looters. Thirdly, by virtue of their size, we believe that Strs. C-1 and C-2 could provide
us with a longer chronological sequence than the other mounds at the site.

Out of a total of eight excavation units carried out in 1984, four were placed in Str. C-1, three on Str. C-2 and one along the central axis of the playing court between Strs. C-7 and C-8. The second major aspect of the 1984 season of investigation included the mapping and re-mapping of the new and formerly known portions of the site.

**Mapping Methods and Techniques**

Both the mapping methods and techniques applied in our site survey were governed by time, environment and available instrumentation. Since the dense undergrowth and generally uneven terrain of the site area did not provide an ideal setting for the establishment of a grid system, a less formal method was employed.

Once the thick jungle cover had been cleared from around the mound clusters it was possible to establish two permanent datums. Both of these were constructed of concrete with metal bolts at their center. Our primary benchmark was established on the northwestern corner of the summit of Str. C-1 and an elevation of 550 meters above sea level was assumed for this point. A second and similar benchmark was placed on the southwestern corner of the summit of
Str. C-2. The survey then proceeded to map all the structures in Group C and Plaza D.

For surveying the structures and features beyond the limits of Group C and Plaza D, we were forced to either open short “brechas” or extend our mapping line along existing trails. The latter was especially convenient for mapping Plazas A and B. Mapping in the river, Guacamayo Bridge and the dry creek bed, however, necessitated the cutting of three short “brechas.”

Besides facilitating the mapping of the site and its associated features, the trails and “brechas” were also used as our base lines for recording topographic data. Our topographic survey commenced at the primary datum on Str. C-1 and contours were taken at one-meter intervals. Transit stations were marked with flagging-type nailed into the ground. To ensure data accuracy a backsight reading to the last transit station was taken from every new station.

The entire survey was conducted with a transit and stadia rod. Although many researchers and surveyors prefer using an alidade and plane table, there were great disadvantages in using them at Caledonia. Sporadic rainfall in the middle of the rainy season, thick vegetation and sharp relief make carrying a plane table both frustrating and clumsy. On the other hand, the transit is small, fast and quite accurate for our purposes.
Excavation Procedures

Altogether, the excavations of the 1980 and 1984 seasons sampled portions of the three major groups of mounds at the site. The 1980 season focused specifically on Str. A-1 but included excavation units on Str. B-3 and Plaza A. Subsequently, the 1984 season concentrated on Sts. C-1 and C-2, with a single excavation unit placed in the ballcourt between Sts. C-7 and C-8.

In both seasons, selection of structures and features for investigation were based on three factors: 1) to salvage those structures which showed any signs or attempts of looting; 2) their overall size and location (because we believed they would provide us with a longer and more chronological accurate chronological sequence); 3) the presence or indications of surface features (e.g. walls, sherds, etc.).

As previously indicated, a vertical datum was established atop Str. C-1 and given an arbitrary elevation of 550 meters. Vertical provenance was measured above or below this point. On the other hand, horizontal provenance was measured from a temporary datum established for each excavation unit.

The dimensions of excavation units were variable. In most cases the size of the mounds were exposed and surface features influenced the size of the unit. During both seasons of work excavation by cultural
levels was the rule. Screening was done with one centimeter mesh. All excavation, recording, and processing of archaeological materials was done by local workmen and Trent University students under the supervision of the author and Professor Paul Healy. Human remains were analyzed in Canada by Trent University Professor Herman Helmuth.

Excavation Description

Before describing individual excavations it should be pointed out that unit numbers for the 1980 and 1984 seasons differ. This difference stems from the fact that the 1980 investigations were part of the multi-faceted Trent-Cayo Archeological Project, thus the numeration of excavation units was incorporated in that system. Unit numeration for the 1984 season progresses sequentially. A list of the excavations, their location, and illustration references is provided in Table 1. Feature and architectural nomenclature follow Loten and Pendergast (1984).

Excavation Unit 58

Unit 58 was situated atop Str. A-1 where a large but superficial looters’ hole had revealed a portion of a standing cut stone wall
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXCAVATION</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<td>Plaza A</td>
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<td>Str. A - 1 (Tomb)</td>
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<td>68</td>
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<td>Str. C - 1</td>
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<td>Op.2</td>
<td>Str. C - 2</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Fig. 27</td>
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**TABLE 1: EXCAVATION LOCATION AND ILLUSTRATION REFERENCE**
(Fig. 9). After clearing away the vegetation, a rectangular shaped (2.6m x 3.8m) was positioned to incorporate this feature and most of the central top portion of the mound.

Immediately below the humus layer and disturbed surface of the excavation unit, we came across a thick layer of large, cut vault stones and wall core rubble. Below this the excavation revealed a well preserved and plastered surface of building platform supporting a partly collapsed wall (Fig. 10). The large vault stones suggest that the wall previously supported a vaulted superstructure. The single-chambered superstructure had a doorway (1.5m wide) which opened towards Plaza A and faced Str. A-2. Outside the doorway, a small (20cm high) step dropped to the plastered surface of a relatively wide terrace.

A substantial number of sherds were found lying on the floor within the room. Although most were plain jar and “comal” fragments, there were many decorated pieces as well. Included were about 30 sherds from at least two fancily carved vases (Fig. 100). These were from a Belizean variety of the distinctive pottery type called Pabellon Modeled-Carved (Smith and Gifford 1966:160, 165-166, 173; Adams 1971:49-51; Sabloff 1975:195-198; Graham et al. 1980:164-166). On the terrace floor, directly in front of the temple doorway, we also discovered about 150 sherds from several painted censers decorated with grotesque faces and classified as Pedregal Modeled (Adams 1971:57; Sabloff 1975:114-116). One of these was partly restored (Fig.101). Most were also found with a
FIGURE 9: Plan of plazas A & B.
considerable amount of ash-like soil. Comparative analysis of the associated ceramics with those from sites in the Peten suggest that the temple atop Str. A-1 was utilized into the very Late Classic (Tepeu 3) Period (800-950 A.D.).

Leaving the buttressed superstructure walls intact, a 1.5 meters by 1.6 meters pit (labeled Excavation 58 extension) was placed directly behind the structure doorway. The unit extended from behind the terrace step to the rear (eastern) wall of the room, along the primary axis of the structure.

Below the floor was a thin layer of ballast that had been placed above a thick layer of core fill. The core consisted to granite boulders interspersed with a few limestone ones. These had been laid over a thin layer of powdery limestone which covered a second floor, 40 centimeters below floor 1. This second floor (floor 2) was well preserved, plastered and approximately ten centimeters thick. Very few sherds were found between floor 1 and floor 2. Among those recovered, most were plain and included a few undatable rim sherds and censer fragments.

Excavation 58 extension continued below floor 2 through a similar ballast layer and core fill. Twenty-five centimeters below, a layer of aggregate had been placed over the large, rectangular-shaped capstones of a tomb. It is quite likely that the aggregate had been placed as a seal for the tomb below floor 2. Only five sherds were found below floor 2. All were plain and included only one non-
FIGURE 10: Cross section of excavations 58 & 63
diagnostic rim sherd. More detailed architectural information provided in Chapter 3.

**Excavation Unit 63**

To ensure better control of the excavation and recovery of the tomb and its contents, excavation below the capstones was recorded under a separate unit number (Excavation 63).

The roof of the vaulted tomb lay at 1.9 meters below surface and consisted of a series of flat, rectangular-shaped capstones. Each were approximately 65 centimeters long by 25 centimeters wide and up to 12 centimeters thick. The chamber was oval in shape and measured 1.2 meters in height, two meters in length and, at its widest point, was only 1.1 meters, tapering to about 60 centimeters wide where the walls converged at the end (Figs. 10 and 11). The tomb was aligned east to west along the transverse axis of the structure. The walls were constructed of medium-sized, trimmed blocks of limestone cemented together with plaster and tapered gradually to the capstones. A thin layer of soil covered the plastered tomb floor upon which had been deposited 17 whole and fractured vessels (See Burial 1).

Excavation continued into the tomb floor, through a layer of ballast and large core fill. Four meters below surface we struck bedrock. No artefacts were found below the tomb floor. Detailed descriptions and discussions of burials are made in Chapter 3.
Excavation Unit 62

Excavation 62 was placed perpendicular to Excavation 58, along the western face and primary axis of Str. A-1. The trench measured six meters by two meters. The purpose of the excavation was twofold. Primarily we hope to gather architectural information, and secondly, to recover artefactual material that might aid in dating both the cultural and architectural activity on this structure and the site in general.

The excavation progressed through a thin layer of humus followed by a thicker layer of cut limestone blocks and wall core. The cut blocks and core were most likely components of the previously vaulted superstructure of A-1. Most of this material had collapsed on top of a fairly wide structural terrace which had been plastered and was still well preserved (Fig.12).

Extending northward from the base of the stair outside the doorway of the vaulted room (Excavation 58), the terrace was 2.5 meters wide. At its northernmost point, the terrace gave way to a poorly preserved and barely discernible stairway leading down to the plaza floor. The stairs had been faced with cut limestone blocks and plastered.

The only cultural remains recovered above the terrace and stairway were ceramic. Most were found directly above the terrace floor, especially in front of the temple’s doorway. Among these were
various plain and slipped jar and bowl fragments plus numerous sherds of censers, similar to the Pedregal Modeled variety found in Excavation 58. These indicate that the superstructure was still functional during the very Late Classic (A.D. 700-900).

Proceeding through the stairway and terrace floor, we encountered a layer of ballast above a thicker layer of core. These had been laid over a thin layer of powdery limestone beneath which was a second plastered floor. Like Floor 1, this floor extended northward, but was at least a meter wider than the former. It was also clear that this floor was the same floor 2 located in Excavation 58, which together represented the surface of a fairly wide platform. This platform also joined a small stairway leading down to Plaza A. The second stairway was slightly better preserved than the previous one and had been plastered and faced with cut limestone blocks.

Along the structure’s primary axis, at this point where the platform joined the stairway, we located a large broken bowl. The bowl was lying on its side with its orifice facing south and its base facing Plaza A to the north. Within the vessel were two teeth and broken pieces of human bone. The best preserved skeletal remains were fragments of long bones which suggested that the individual was a child. Similarities between the vessel and specimens found at Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971:36-37) and Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931:307) suggested that the burial and construction phase of the structure dates to around Tepeu 2 times (A.D. 700-800).
CALEDONIA
STRUCTURE A-1

FIGURE 12: Cross section of Excavation 62.
Excavation continued through this second floor and stairway. Below we encountered a large layer of core extending all the way to bedrock. As in Excavation 63, this core was composed mostly of large granite and limestone boulders. Most of the ceramic remains found below floor 2 were plain body sherds. The only rim sherds represented included slipped, non-diagnostic types.
Excavation Unit 61

This one meter by one meter excavation unit was placed on Plaza A, two meters north, and in line with the primary axis, of Str. A-1. The main purpose of the excavation was to explore whether the plaza had undergone any architectural renovation and if so, to determine whether changes were contemporaneous with the structural sequence of Str. A-1.

Beneath a layer of humus and architectural debris that had collapsed off Str. A-1, we uncovered what seemed to be a thin layer of broken plaster, 25 centimeters below surface (Fig.13). Since preservation was so poor we decided to extend the excavation two meters south and one meter east along the base of Str. A-1. There was no improvement in the state of the floor but along the southern end of the excavation, we uncovered the three lower steps of the structure. Although the steps had all been dislodged by tree roots it was still possible to determine riser and tread dimensions. These were approximately 20 and 30 centimeters respectively. The only cultural remains from this level were Late Classic (Tepeu 3) ceramic types.

Excavation beyond the poorly preserved floor failed to locate a second plaza floor. This suggested that both architectural phases of Str. A-1 were built in such a way as to incorporate the same plaza floor. Bedrock was found 75 centimeters below surface. Among the
few ceramic artefacts recovered there were fragments of Tepeu 2 incurving bowls. Other cultural remains included an obsidian core (Fig. 144c), two unperforated ceramic disks (Fig. 135b) and two limestone beads (Fig. 137b) found just below the plaza floor, at the base of the stairway. It is possible that these were part of a poorly defined cache.
FIGURE 13: Cross section of excavation 61
Excavation Unit 68

This was the only excavation unit on Plaza B. The pit, measuring 1.5 meters by 1.5 meters, was placed on the summit of Str. B-3. There were two reasons for this choice: primarily the mound displayed clear evidence of looting and secondly, to obtain chronological data which could shed some light on the time-space relationship between Plazas A and B.

Prior to excavation, a surface search recovered a carved jade pendant in the disturbed section of the mound (fig. 137a). After clearing the humus and roots away, a layer of grayish-white soil mixed with loose pebbles and littered with pottery sherds was encountered 16 centimeters below surface (Fig. 14). This layer resembled the floor and ballast components of other plastered floors at the site. Unfortunately, any definite evidence for such a floor on Str. B-3 had been completely destroyed.

At approximately 30 centimeters below the surface, the ballast gave way to a layer of core mixed with some soil and small rocks. This component extended to a depth of 70 centimeters where we found the plaza floor fairly well preserved. Beyond this there were no other architectural features and bedrock of massive limestone was found at 90 centimeters below surface.
FIGURE 14: Cross section of excavation 68
Cultural material recovered from the excavation included a large quantity of ceramic remains, the jade pendant previously mentioned and a small projectile point (Fig. 151b). The latter, plus the bulk (85%) of the ceramic remains, were found above the floor and ballast layer. The other 15 percent came from the layer directly below the floor. No cultural remains were found below the plaza floor (70-90 cm).

Comparative analysis of the ceramic material suggests that Str. B-3 (and probably the other structures in Plaza B) were not constructed until some time after the structures in Plaza A. Whereas Str. A-1 produced material dating to the Middle Classic (A.D. 500-600), the earliest material from B-3 date to the middle part of the Late Classic (700-800 A.D.). The presence of Terminal Classic, ash-tempered ceramics on the upper level of B-3 also suggests that like Plaza A, Plaza B was simultaneously abandoned between Terminal Classic and Early Postclassic times (850-1000 A.D.).
Operations in Group C

Operation 1

A 2.5 meter by six meter excavation unit was placed on the summit of Str. C-1 where a looters’ trench had exposed the upper portions of two well-preserved walls (Fig. 15). The purpose of the excavation was to investigate the extent of damage caused by the looters; to determine the architectural style and function of the structure; and, to retrieve cultural remains that could help to determine the chronological sequence of the building.

Excavation proceeded through the looters’ backdirt into a thick layer of large cut limestone blocks mixed with rubble fill and marl. In the northwestern end of the trench there was a considerable quantity of modeled and painted (red) stucco within the overburden. All this material had collapsed into the room of a fairly large temple superstructure.

The room was 5.85 meters long by 2.40 meters wide with its long axes running east-west (Fig. 16). Two parallel doorways (1.7 m wide), one to the north the other to the south, provided access into the room. Inside, at opposite ends of the room, were two well plastered and previously painted (red) benches. Half of the eastern bench had been destroyed by the looters’ trench. The western bench,
FIGURE 15: Plan of plazas C & D.
FIGURE 16: Plan & Profile of Str. C-1
however, was intact and well preserved. It was 58.5 centimeters tall, 1.5 meters wide and extended the entire width of the room. At its bottom center was a small niche (38cm in depth), constructed in the shape of a corbelled arch.

The walls enclosing the room were uniformly about one meter thick. In some areas, patches of red and black wall paint were still preserved on the plastered surface. The floor of the superstructure was approximately 1.65 meters below surface. Most of it was preserved except along the northern doorway where a piece of plywood covered an area where the looters had penetrated the floor.

The artefactual remains associated with this uppermost level consisted of a large quantity of molded stucco fragments, a few sherds, plus two obsidian blade fragments. The majority of the stucco and pottery sherds came from above the western bench. Most of the latter were plain utilitarian types, nevertheless, a few incurving bowl rim sherds displayed marked similarities with Late Classic (Tepeu 3) material from other Chiquibul sites. The obsidian blade fragments were recovered amidst the rubble of the destroyed eastern bench.
Operation 2

This operation consisted of a 2.5 meters by five meters trench, running north to south, along the top of Str. C-2. The mound was chosen for excavation because of its prominent location in Plaza C, plus its large size, suggested that it was of major importance. Furthermore, the fact that the mound had been looted ensured better in situ preservation of architectural and artefactual remains.

The first 18 centimeters below surface consisted of a humus layer entangled with roots. Beneath this the excavation progressed through a thick layer of marl and rubble mixed with a considerable number of large and medium-sized limestone blocks. The latter, which had all been cut, were components of a collapsed wall and probably a vaulted roof of a temple superstructure.

The superstructure consisted of a simple room with a single (1.42m wide) doorway facing Plaza C to the west. The room was 4.66 meters long and 2.30 meters wide. The walls had been constructed of cut limestone blocks and had been plastered. Most of the eastern and northern walls, however, had collapsed onto the floor.

The artefactual remains above the floor showed a very interesting distribution (Fig. 18). Except for a few pieces of charcoal and pottery sherds, very few artefacts were found in the northern half of the room. From the doorway southward, however, there was a large
FIGURE 17: Plan & Profile of Str.C-2
concentration of cultural material associated with an ashy soil lends. The vast majority of these remains were ceramic. These included mostly Tepeu 3 jar and bowl forms with a few vase and censer fragments. A few of the latter were similar to the Pedregal Modeled types found on Str. A-1.

Amidst the pottery sherds were four large metate fragments (Figs. 140-143). The largest was situated in the center of the doorway along the primary axis of the structure. Two other fragments were centrally located in the southern section of the room, while a fourth lay against the southwestern wall. Among the metate fragments and sherds were numerous freshwater mussel and “jute” shells. A large number of the “jute” had their pointed ends broken off, suggesting that they may have been consumed prior to their deposition on the temple floor. Soil sifted from above the floor produced an unmodified marine shell (Cassididae), a fragment of conch (Strombus) shell pendant (Fig. 152c), two obsidian blade fragments, a spindle whorl (Fig. 138d), and two matching fragments of an eccentric projectile point (Fig. 148a).

While clearing the floor we also uncovered a small intrusive cache pit adjacent to the eastern wall and along the primary axis of the structure. The cache consisted of a small jar (Fig. 106) that had been placed within a plain bowl (Fig. 121) and covered with fine soil. Like the ceramic remains found above the floor, both vessels were Tepeu 3 types. This implied that the temple above Str. C-2 was still functional into the very Late Classic. The distribution and large
METRIC NOTE
MEASUREMENTS ARE IN METERS AND CAN BE CONVERTED TO FEET BY DIVIDING BY 0.3048.

LEGEND
• METATE FRAGMENTS
• PIT
• SHERD CONCENTRATION

FIGURE 18: Floor 1, Str. C-2
concentration of artefacts within the ashy soil lens above the floor indicated that this material may have been ceremoniously deposited, and or broken, shortly before or during abandonment of the site. On the other hand, they may represent a re-occupation and habitation of previously ceremonial structures by a late (post-collapse) squatter population.
Operation 3

Operation 3 was a six meters by three meters trench laid out perpendicular to Operation 2 on Str. C-2. The excavation extended east to west from the western wall of the superstructure to the Plaza floor below. The objectives of this excavation were to determine whether there was a stairway associated with the temple above C-2; whether the structure had undergone any previous reconstitution and, if so, when had the renovations occurred.

Below layers of humus and architectural debris we uncovered a fairly wide basal platform that abutted a step leading into the room of the temple (Fig. 19). At its westernmost point this 2.10 meters wide platform was connected to a poorly preserved stairway that led down to the plaza floor. The stairway had been constructed of cut limestone blocks which had been plastered over. Except for a few steps at the base of the stairway, most of the others had been uprooted by trees.

Located 45 centimeters below surface, the Group C plaza floor was also in a poor state of preservation. Along the primary axis of the structure, just west of the first step, a large section of the plaza had been destroyed.

There was a very large quantity of potsherds found in this level, especially above the platform and stairway. The majority of these
consisted of jar and bowl fragments. The most interesting and diagnostic pieces were fragments of a stuccoed and incised vase found above the plaza floor, and Belize Red material from above the stairway. According to Pendergast (1969:21), similar stuccoed vases date to Tepeu 3 times at Actun Balam; while Belize Red material come from the Spanish Lookout Complex (late Tepeu 2 – Tepeu 3) in the Belize Valley (Gifford:255-261).

Other remains from within this first level included three obsidian blade fragments, two ringstones, plus numerous mussel and “jute” shells. Two of the obsidian blade fragments were found at the base of the stairway while the third came from above the platform. The shell remains lay scattered above the stairway and plaza floor. Like those found on the floor of the temple, many of the “jute” were broken and the snails previously eaten. The ringstones were located at the base of the stairway about a meter north of the primary axis. According to Willey (1972:134-136) similar specimens were found in the Boca Complex at Altar, indicating that the Caledonia material probably dated to Tepeu 2-3 times.

Taking into consideration the length of time it would take to complete this fairly large trench, we decided to decrease the width of the excavation unit by two meters. Henceforth the excavation concentrated on the center of the stairway along the primary axis of the structure.
Ten centimeters below we came upon a second platform (platform 2). Like the first platform, the latter also incorporated the first stairway. Unlike platform 1, however, platform 2 was not associated with the superstructure. This indicated that prior to the construction of the vaulted temple, Str. C-2 had either been a flat-topped pyramid or had had a perishable superstructure. A few ceramic remains contained within the ballast separating the platforms suggested that construction of the superstructure occurred sometime during Tepeu 3 times.

Four centimeters below the second platform and just outside the doorway of the temple, a cache containing a Tepeu 2 type jar was uncovered (Fig. 105). The jar had been deposited along the primary axis of the structure, above a third platform. This platform was associated with a second stairway, just slightly better preserved than stairway 1.

Both platform 3 and stairway 2 were covered with pottery sherds. Many appeared to be fragments of whole vessels that had been ceremoniously broken shortly before reconstitution of the structure. Indeed, we were able to reconstruct a small miniature bowl, a conical spiked censer, and most of another unique type of censer (Figs. 131-133). An obsidian blade and blade fragment were also found midway up the stairway.

Elsewhere, excavation below the plaza uncovered a burial (Burial 3) within natural soil level. The burial extended 1.26 meters westward
from the base of stairway 1 and was located 42 centimeters below the destroyed section of the plaza floor, along the primary axis of the structure. Although preservation was poor, the skeletal remains recovered indicated that the burial consisted of at least three (maybe 4) individuals. Two had been interred in a sitting position, with their heads resting on their knees and arms around their legs.

Just west of the two individuals there was a large stone disc (probably courtmarker or altar) lying over several flat stones in a small box-like arrangement. Encased below the disc were numerous other human remains. Among these were fragments of a third cranium beneath a broken incurring bowl, and fragments of various long bones. A number of artefacts were also found around the outer edges of the disc. These included seven miniature eccentrics from along the northern edge; and a tapered-stemmed point and an obsidian core from the west (Figs. 149-150). Similarities between these eccentrics and material reported in the Pasion Complex at Altar (Willey 1972, Figs. 161, 166, 167), and the Spanish Lookout Complex at Barton Ramie (Willey et al. 1965, Figs. 268, 280), suggest a Late Classic. The ceramic remains also coincide with this placement. For example, the incurring bowl and other bowl fragments located around the burial are similar to specimens from the Spanish Lookout Complex in the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976, Fig. 187c), Benque Viejo 3 at Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, Fig. 26), and Tepeu 2-3 material from Rio Frio Cave (Pendergast 1970, Fig. 11c-j). These indicate that Burial 3 was mostly likely deposited during Tepeu 3 times. It we also were to accept that the stone disc
was a ballcourt marker or altar, then the late date for the burial, plus the fact that the plaza floor directly above was destroyed, would suggest that burial 3 was most likely intrusive.

Further excavation continued through the second stairway and platform 3. Below most of these two features the excavation revealed a 15 to 20 centimeters layer of ballast, followed by a dense and well packed core lying directly above sterile sandy soil. The core consisted of large granite boulders which served as the foundation base of the structure. Ceramic remains within this level consisted of various Tepeu 1 and 2 type forms. The only material that varied in date were two fragments of a basal flanged dish that resembled Tzakol 2-3 specimens from Uaxactun and other Chiquibul sites.

The only area where a break in the above mentioned stratigraphic pattern occurred, was below the stairway. Here, the first step had been destroyed during the construction of a small vaulted tomb (The roof of the latter was ten centimeters below where the tread of the first step should have been). The chamber was rectangular in shape and measured 1.05 meters tall, 1.90 meters long and an average of .90 meters wide (Fig. 20). It lay perpendicular to the primary axis of the structure in a north-south alignment. Unlike the tomb on Str. A-1, this one was not hollow. Probably due to practical architectural considerations, it had been filled in to the roof with sandy river soil. Excavation to the tomb floor revealed that it had originally been plastered. Sterile soil lay five centimeters below floor.
FIGURE 20: Burial 4
Operation 4

Operation 4 was a one meter by three meters excavation unit situated along the primary axis and midsection of the temple room above Str. C-1. The purpose of this operation was to recover architectural and artefactual data that could shed light on the chronological sequence of Str. C-1, Group C and the site in general.

Excavation proceeded from the slumped floor (floor 1) of the temple through a layer of ballast and fill to a second floor (Fig. 21). Floor 2 was located 15 centimeters below floor 1. Throughout most of the trench the floor was fairly well preserved. The only exception was the north end which had been destroyed by the looters. A few potsherds were the only cultural remains recovered from this level. Most of these were large body fragments of jars. A couple fragments of incurring bowls, however, suggested a Tepeu 3 date for the construction of floor 1 and the vaulted room above.

Beneath floor 2 the stratigraphy was poorly defined. Instead of the usual ballast layer or ballast and subsequent core fill observed between other architectural levels at the site, the fill below floor 2 consisted of a very loose mixture of large core and ballast-like material. At the north end of the trench two small body sherds and a stucco fragment were found in the looters’ backfill. Considering that a large quantity of stucco was previously found above floor 1, it is likely that both of these artefacts were intrusive.
Within the mixed fill at the southern end of the trench, several potsherds, a fragment of an antler and some charcoal were recovered. Several of the sherds were fragments of Tepeu 1-2 annular based polychrome plates, but the majority were fragments of jars.

Beneath this material, approximately 80 centimeters below the surface of floor 1, the excavation revealed a small fragment of what appeared to be a third floor (floor 3). The only location where this small plastered surface was evident, however, was in the middle of the trench (Fig. 22). Elsewhere, several large granite boulders cut through the floor level. This implied that floor 3 had either been destroyed in prehistoric times or by recent looting activities.

A meter below floor 1 the remnants of a fourth floor (Fig. 23) were found. Like floor 3, a large part of floor 4 was destroyed. An empty can of Mycota Powder and 4 spent bullet shells located in the fill above the floor indicated that both floors 3 and 4 were destroyed in recent times. A close look at the cross section of Operation 4 and 6 (Fig. 21) suggests that the looters may have dug a vertical tunnel to the surface of floor 4, then tunneled horizontally through the center of the structure. After abandoning the tunnel, they may have thrown in some of the large granite boulders in a half-hearted effort at backfilling. Prehistoric remains found in the loose fill included several body fragments of polychrome plates, several jar sherds and a few pieces of charcoal.
FIGURE 23: Plan of floor 4, Str.C-1.
Excavation continued through this level to a fifth floor (Fig. 24). Unlike the two floors above, floor 5 was fairly well preserved. Located 1.45 meters below floor 1, it extended from the southern edge of the trench to about the middle of the excavation unit. At this point the floor abutted the corner of the superstructure. The superstructure consisted of two small plastered (20cm) walls that may have enclosed a small room. The upper portions of the walls may have been destroyed in prehistoric times to make way for the construction of floor 4. Outside the eastern edge of the wall several fragments of a Tepeu 1 type jar were recovered. Within the walls, just above the floor, a small pottery disc (Fig. 135a), an obsidian blade fragments, a few polychrome sherds, an antler fragment and some mussel shells were found.

Seventeen centimeters below floor 5, the operation uncovered a sixth floor. Unlike the previous floor, floor 6 extended across the entire length of the trench. Cultural material above the floor consisted of a few potsherds and some charcoal. The sherds included fragments of a grey slipped jar and two fragments of a Tzakol 1-2 basal-flanged dish. A sample of the charcoal was collected for dating.

The removal of floor 6 located a seventh floor below a layer of ballast and granite boulders. Lying 1.90 meters below floor 1, the plastered surface of floor 7 was still fairly well preserved. A small amount of charcoal found immediately above the floor was collected for chronometric dating. In the southwestern corner of the
trench, a few Late Preclassic sherds plus several “jute” shells were found. The broken ends of the shells plus their charred condition indicated that the snails had been cooked for eating.

Beneath floor 7 the excavation revealed a 12-centimeter layer of ballast above sterile sandy soil. No cultural remains were found below floor 7. The sterile layer lay 2.02 meters below floor 1.
Operation 5

This unit consisted of a one meter by two meters trench placed in the center of the room above Str. C-2. The trench extended north to south along the transverse axis of the structure. Like Operation 4 on Str. C-1, the objectives of this excavation were to record architectural information and to recover cultural remains that might help to determine structural and site chronology.

Beneath floor 1 and a subsequently dense layer of ballast, the excavation revealed a second floor (floor 2). Floor 2 was located 33 centimeters below floor 1, and was well preserved. The only anomaly observed on the creamy coloured surface of the floor was a circular fire-clouded patch just east of the doorway, along the primary axis of the structure.

A variety of cultural remains were recovered within the fill above the floor. In the northwestern end of the trench, a mano (Fig.145a) and metate fragment (Fig. 144) lay next to each other. Just above the fire-clouded section of the floor an obsidian blade fragment was recovered. Along the eastern and southern edges of the trench there were numerous shells. These included mussel, “jute,” and a partly modified fragment of a conch shell. Among the ceramic remains recovered, the most diagnostic types included several fragments of Tepeu 2-3 incurring red bowls with finger impressed fillets, and fragments of a large annular-based bowl with handles.
Thirty five centimeters below floor 2 the excavation uncovered a third floor. Unlike the previous floor, floor 3 lay beneath a layer of ballast and core fill. Along the primary axis of the structure and below and below the fire-clouded section of floor 2, lay a polychrome bowl (Fig. 52) and a rectangular-shaped fragment of a redware plate (Fig. 134). The location of both items indicated that they had been deposited as a dedicatory cache during the construction of the structural phase above. Within the vessel were two crab claws and an obsidian blade. Other cultural material from this level consisted of several potsherds of varying forms. The most diagnostic artefact, however, was the polychrome bowl. Similar specimens found at Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971, Fig. 6a-f) and the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965, Fig. 235a,b) suggest a Tepeu 1 date for the vessel.

Beyond floor 3, only a layer of ballast and a dense well-packed layer of core lay above sterile soil. The latter lay 1.95 meters below the surface of floor 1. Cultural remains within this level consisted solely of a few potsherds. The only dateable pieces (2 fragments of basal flanged dishes) suggested a Tzakol 3 placement for the first phase of construction of Str. C-2.
**Operation 6**

Operation 6 was a two meters by four meters trench located along the primary axis and southern face of Str. C-1. The trench extended from outside the doorway of the room above Str. C-1, to a point above the plaza floor. The operation had two objectives: to determine whether the destroyed and preserved architectural features observed in Operation 4 were present and better defined; and, to recover cultural material for dating the architectural sequence.

After removing the looters’ backdirt and subsequent layer of humus, the excavation encountered a thick overburden littered with architectural debris. The debris consisted of large cut limestone blocks and numerous fragments of a stucco frieze. This material had collapsed above a well preserved stairway that descended from the basal platform of the vaulted room to the plaza floor below. Forty centimeters south of the first step, the excavation uncovered the corner of a small wall which must have limited access to the stairway and consequently the structure (Fig. 21). A small mano fragment (Fig. 146a) was found above the tread of the third step and several chert flakes were recovered from above the platform. A few potsherds from within the collapsed debris included fragments to Tepeu 3 type jars.
Excavation below the basal platform revealed that the platform surface was the same as floor 2 recorded in Operation 4. This implied that prior to the construction of the vaulted room above, Str. C-1 had been a flat-topped pyramid. Twenty centimeters below the platform another floor abutting a single step and a second platform was uncovered. This floor was coeval in depth with floor 3 in Operation 4, suggesting that, like the observation made in the previous level, both of these surfaces formed part of floor 3. Unfortunately, only a few non-diagnostic jar fragments were found above the floor.

Below floor 3 the excavation revealed the southern extensions of all the floors (floors 4,5,6,7) recorded in Operation 4 (See Fig. 21). Floor 4 extended from the northern edge of the trench to the base of the step associated with floor 3. At this point the floor melded with the platform (associated with floor 3) then disappeared a few centimeters behind the second step of stairway 1. Cultural remains within this level consisted of a few potsherds and some small pieces of charcoal. A few polychrome sherds appeared to be fragments of Tepeu 1-2 plates.

Floor 5 was located 90 centimeters below platform 1. The floor extended from the northern edge of the trench to within 40 centimeters from stairway 1 where it disappeared abruptly. A logical explanation for the abrupt ending of floors 4 and 5 was that they may have been destroyed during the construction of stairway 1. The fill above floor 5 produced more plain body sherds, a few Tepeu 1-2
polychrome bowl fragments, the distal end of an obsidian blade and a few small pieces of charcoal.

Floor 6 lay 15 centimeters below floor 5. Towards the middle of the trench, the floor abutted a single step which dropped off to a small basal platform. The surface of the platform extended southward where it eventually melded with the tread of the first step of stairway 1. A few potsherds found above floor 6 included fragments of Tzakol 1-2 basal flanged dishes. A tiny obsidian fragment, several “jute” shells and some charcoal were also collected from above the small platform.

Floor 7 was situated at a depth of 1.86 meters below the first floor. Towards the south end of the trench, the floor ended at a small step that dropped off to the plastered surface of the plaza. Among the ceramic remains recovered above floor 7 were several fragments of Late Preclassic bowls. A charcoal sample, recovered with fragments of a mano and metate, yielded a date of 2010 B.P. + 280 (MASCA correction 50 A.D. + 280).

Twenty centimeters below the southern section of floor 7, the excavation exposed a fairly thick layer of aggregate. The latter had been placed over a section of sterile soil which contained a simple burial (Burial 5). The burial (Fig. 25) lay 65 centimeters below the layer of aggregate and consisted of a single individual laid out in a flexed position. The only cultural remains associated with the burial was a single body sherd (possible Late Preclassic in date) cupped
over the left scapula of the individual. The excavation was discontinued 10 centimeters below the burial.
FIGURE 25: Burial 5
FIGURE 26: Cross section of Op. 7, Str. C-1
Operation 7

Operation 7 was a one meter by two meters trench placed above the western bench within the vaulted room of Str. C-1. The main objective of the excavation was to determine whether the benches were part of the primary construction of the temple superstructure. Visual examination suggested that they were secondary, therefore representing the final construction phase of Str. C-1. A second objective of the operation was to recover artefactual remains that might reveal the construction date of the benches.

Beneath the surface of the bench the excavation uncovered three stratigraphic levels (Fig. 26). In descending order, these consisted of a layer of ballast followed by a fairly thick layer of rubble fill and a thin layer of fine powdery limestone. The latter lay directly above the plastered surface of the temple platform, indicating that the bench obviously represented a secondary construction phase. Furthermore, the plastered surface below the bench still retained a bright slip of red paint, providing convincing evidence for our previous contention and suggesting that the entire floor was originally painted.

All cultural remains within the bench were ceramic. The most diagnostic specimens included several matching fragments of a stuccoed vase (Fig. 58). Most prominent among the pigments on these fragments were two shades of Maya Blue. The provenience of
this material plus a sample of the pigment recently recovered in a late or terminal classic context at Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971:76) suggests a late date for the Caledonia specimen. Assuming that the Caledonia material also falls within this time span, it may then be reasonable to suggest that the benches were constructed slightly before or during the Early Post-Classic Period.
CROSS SECTIONAL PROFILE
CALEDONIA, MOUNDS C7-C8, BALLCOURT
OPERATION B, NORTH FACE OF TRENCH

SCALE 1:10

LEGEND

□ HUMUS

● LIMESTONE RUBBLE

● STERILE SOIL

FIGURE 27: Cross section of Op. B.
Operation 8

This operation commenced as a two meters by two meters trench which was eventually extended by one meter to the north and to the south. It was placed in the center of the ballcourt between Strs. C-7 and C-8. The purpose of the excavation was to determine whether there was a ballcourt marker present, and to recover associated cultural remains that might provide chronological data.

The excavation unit failed to locate a ballcourt marker but revealed three distinct stratigraphic levels (Fig. 27). These consisted of a 15 to 25 centimeter thick layer of humus that had accumulated above a poorly preserved layer of marl and ballast. The latter descended from below the humus to an average of 55 centimeters below surface where a natural layer of sandy soil was encountered.

The marl and ballast layers were similar to the construction fill used throughout the architectural levels at the site. This indicated that they probably represented the prehistoric surface of the ballcourt. Artefactual remains recovered in the excavation consisted of 20 badly weathered body sherds. Three of these were found within the humus, and the remainder within the marl and ballast layer. Unfortunately, none of these were diagnostic, and therefore provided little cultural or chronological information.
CHAPTER 3 – ARCHITECTURE, BURIALS AND CACHES

Architecture

The architecture of Caledonia is conventionally arranged in plaza and plazuela assemblages. As at Tikal, Uaxactun and Seibal (Smith 1972:114) these components either occur on naturally flat terrain (Group C and Plaza D) or on slightly modified hill tops (Plazas A and B), separated by natural features (Cotton Tree Creek and the dry creek bed [Fig. 6]).

The materials used for construction also confirm to the Maya custom of using resources close at hand. Both granite and limestone, the two major materials of construction, are readily available near the site’s perimeter. Because of its durability, the former was used as the main component for structural fill and core. On the other hand, limestone, often in block form, was used as veneer on platforms, stairs and walls, while marl was used for the plastering of these surfaces. Although no wooden structural remains were found at Caledonia, their use at nearby sites, such as the Caracol wooden lintel, strongly suggests that wood was an integral part of the construction materials used in this region. The same can be said for thatching, which together with wood, was undoubtedly employed for constructing perishable superstructures above flat-topped pyramids and residential units.
Using Smith’s (1972:117-122) definitions for identifying building type and function, at least five distinct structural types are represented at Caledonia. These include ceremonial (temple) structures, palaces, ballcourt, secular (housemounds) structures and possibly a shrine. The first type would comprise of buildings such as Strs. A-1, A-2, C-1 and C-2. Palaces are probably represented on only three of the four plazuela groups. Although none of these buildings were excavated, the general dimensions of Strs. A-3, B-1, C-3 and C-4 and their overall size, suggests that they could be included in this category. Structures C-7 and C-8 enclose the only ballcourt, while A-6, because of its morphology and unique location, may represent a simple shrine. All the other buildings at the site are probably secular.
Construction History of Structures A-1, B-3, C-1 and C-2

Structure A-1

The architectural data provided by excavations 58, 62 and 63 indicated that Str. A-1 underwent two successive stages of construction.

Phase 1 was probably built shortly after the leveling of the hilltop and the construction of plaza A. It consisted of a 1.10 meters tall structure with a central stairway. At the top of the structure there was a fairly wide platform that may have supported a perishable superstructure. Within the core of the building a small vaulted tomb (Burial 1) had been incorporated. Ceramic remains from within the tomb and core suggested that phase 1 was constructed sometime between the Early and Late Classic (500-600) Periods.

Excepting size, there was no substructural difference between phases 1 and 2. Conversely, the superstructures differed markedly. Whereas the superstructure of phase 1 may have been perishable, that of phase 2 consisted to a vaulted temple constructed out of masonry. The base of the temple stood 2.10 meters above the plaza floor. The room was approximately three meters long by 1.5 meters wide with a single doorway facing Plaza A to the west. Outside the doorway a 1.5 meters wide platform joined a second stairway
leading down to the plaza. Cultural remains found below the floor of
the room and a large jar which formed part of a dedicatory burial
(Burial 2) below stairway, suggested a Late Classic (Tepeu 2-3) date
of construction. Furthermore, the presence of a Belize variety of
Pabellon Modeled-Carved material indicated that the structure was
probably functional as late as the Early Post-Classic Period.
Structure B-3

Structure B-3 was the only residential unit tested at the site. As excavation 68 indicated, it represents a relatively small platform (54cm tall) built in a single construction phase. The presence of the plaza floor below the structure also revealed that construction of B-3 postdated that of Plaza B.

Regarding method of construction, the stratigraphic sequence suggested that after the outlines of the structure and been demarcated they were faced with cut limestone blocks then filled in with boulders to within 15 centimeters of the top. A layer of ballast was then laid over the fill and the surface plastered. Ceramic remains from above and below the floor suggests that Str. B-3 was probably constructed in Tepeu 2 times and abandoned between the Terminal Classic and Early Post-Classic Periods.
Structure C-1

The stratigraphic sequence of Str. C-1 revealed eight construction phases (Fig. 21) spanning over a period of approximately 450 years. Constructed sometime around Late Preclassic times, phase 1 consisted of a large low-lying (35 cm high) platform. To the south the platform had a single step which dropped to the plaza floor. Behind the step and below the platform floor, a simple flexed burial had been deposited and sealed with a layer of aggregate.

Phase 2 resulted in a number of simple changes to the building. First the substructure was extended 40 centimeters to the south at which point it may have had two steps providing access to the plaza. This short stairway rose up to a small terrace then onto a fairly large basal platform. Although the addition of the terrace and stairway increased the overall size of the substructure, they actually decreased the size of the platform by approximately one meter. Two fragments of basal flanged dishes from within the fill suggests that this phase was constructed between Late Preclassic and Early Classic (Tzakol 1) times.

More changes followed in phase 3. The length and height of the stairway increased and the terrace disappeared. In addition we see the construction of the first masonry superstructure on the building and site in general. This superstructure (of Early Classic Date)
consisted of a small room enclosed by fairly thin walls and probably roofed with perishable material.

The destruction (by looters) of floors 3 and 4 precluded architectural data for a precise reconstruction of phases 4 and 5. Nevertheless, the preserved sections of these stages suggested that the height of Str. C-1 was increased by 40 centimeters in phase 4. Furthermore, the superstructure of the previous phase was destroyed to make way for a very wide platform. Subsequently, phase 5 incorporated the southern end of platform 4 by converting it into a small terrace. The latter led up to a fifth basal platform, 30 centimeters taller than the previous one. Although very little in situ remains were recovered, ceramic material from both phases indicated that they were constructed during the Middle Classic (Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 1).

Executed in Tepeu 2-3 times, phase 6 resulted in the construction of stairway 1 and probably the small wall above the plaza floor. At the top of the stairway the structure leveled off to a wide platform that stood 1.70 meters above the plaza.

Following shortly after (but still within Tepeu 3 times), phase 7 brought about one major change to the previous substructure. This change comprised the building of a basal platform over which was constructed a large vaulted temple. The temple had a single room with a doorway to the north and another facing south. The inclusion of the northern doorway suggested that a second stairway may have been constructed at this time. Although none of the vault stones
were found in situ, we estimated the height of the room, from the standing walls, to be about two meters with an additional meter from medial moulding to the top of the vault. The entire superstructure had been built of cut limestone blocks which were used as veneer over rubble fill. The temple and floor (and probably the entire pyramid) had been painted. The former had red and black designs and the latter a slip of red paint.

Phase 8 was the final stage of construction on Str. C-1 (Fig. 16). Two major changes occurred at this time. First was the construction of two benches at the western and eastern ends of the vaulted room. Both were faced with limestone blocks then covered with a thick layer of plaster and a slip of red paint. At their bottom center, both benches had a 38 centimeters deep niche constructed in the shape of a corbelled arch. The second change was the laying of an elaborate stucco frieze on the upper zones of the temple. None of this frieze remained in situ but large fragments recovered from above the benches, floor and stairway indicated that: a) the designs had included human, hieroglyphic and probably zoomorphic elements; and b) it had been painted in various colors, notably red, black and blue. Cultural remains within the western bench, plus the use of Maya Blue on ceramics and the frieze, suggested a construction date between Terminal Classic and Early Post-Classic times.
Structure C-2

Structure C-2 comprised three phases of construction. In relation to the other architectural stages at the site, phase 1 of Str. C-2 was a fairly large endeavor. It consisted of a flat-topped pyramid which stood 1.10 meters tall. On the western face of the structure a small central stairway descended from the basal platform to the plaza floor. Although no postholes were found at the summit it is possible that the building might have had a pole and thatch superstructure. Furthermore, if size is an indication of prominence, then the size of this building in comparison with its contemporary phase in Str. C-1, (phases 4-5), suggests that C-2 may have been the most important structure of Plaza C in the Middle Class (Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 1) Period. This prominence, however, was eventually lost to Str. C-1 in Late Classic times. Whatever caused this shift in importance is unclear.

The construction of phase 2 varied little from the original substructure. The building remained a flat-topped pyramid and its height was increased by only 35 centimeters. A second stairway associated with the platform atop the pyramid also underwent minor changes. The riser/tread dimensions of the steps increased but the actual number of steps decreased by two. The most interesting addition to phase 2 was the inclusion of a small tomb at the base of the stairway. To construct this feature the first 2 steps of stairway 1 were destroyed. Cultural remains within this tomb suggested that the
phase may have been constructed in the early part of the Late Classic (Tepeu 1-2).

The last phase of Str. C-2 retained stairway 2 but changed the summit of the pyramid. In place of the previous platform, phase 3 included the construction of a masonry superstructure (Fig. 17). The latter consisted of a small vaulted temple with a single room and doorway facing Plaza C to the west. The room was 4.66 meters long, 2.30 meters wide and stood 2.15 meters above the plaza floor. This is much smaller than the contemporaneous superstructure on Str. C-1, indicating that if there actually was a change in prominence from C-2 to C-1, it probably occurred in Late Classic (Tepeu 2-3) times. A few stucco fragments located above the platform suggested that the exterior wall of the room may have had a single stucco frieze. No traces of paint were found on the stucco fragments or plastered surfaces of the temple but, like phase 7 on Str. C-1, it is possible that both had originally been painted. Diagnostic remains within this structural phase suggested a construction date in the Terminal Classic (Tepeu 3).
Burials

Discussion

In this thesis the terms “burial” and “grave” are used in accordance with the definitions offered by Smith (1972:212). These state that, “The term burial includes everything connected with an interment: grave, skeletal material, and associated objects. The term grave is used as a general heading for the various types of resting places for the dead: simple, cist and crypt.” These grave types are also defined by Smith (1972:212) as follows:
“Simple: unlined hole in the ground or inclusion of a body in the fill during construction.
Cist: grave with definite outlines, either the sides of an excavation into structural fill or stone walls; no capstones.
Crypt: more carefully walled grave, more elaborate, and always roofed with either capstones or wooden beams.”

Although only five burials were encountered in the excavations, the small sample included a number of different grave types. For example: Burials 1 and 4 were deposited in crypts, Burial 3 was a cist and Burial 5 was simple. Burial 4 represent a fourth burial type; an urn burial. Briefly mentioned by Smith (1972) and dealt in more detail by Ruz (1968), this burial type is defined by Andrews and Andrews (1980:314) as the “Remains of an individual in a pottery
vessel, most often a large jar, sometimes capped by a lid or inverted dish or plate.”

The majority of the skeletal remains from Caledonia were in a poor state of preservation. Illustrations are therefore only provided for those burials that were well defined and visually discernible. To compensate for this deficiency, a detailed osteological report of the human skeletal remains (by H. Helmuth) is provided in Appendix A. Tables 3 and 4 lists the human remains identified from Burial 1. Discussions at the end of burial descriptions include intersite comparisons. A discussion of Burial 1 has been previously presented (Healy et al. 1983a).
Burial 1 (Fig. 11)

Grave type: Crypt, vaulted room.
Location: Str. A-1, Excavation 63, 1.90 meters below surface.
Condition: Poor.
Sex and Age: Eight individuals. Seven adults (over 20 years) of which at least one was female and one child between six and fourteen years old.
Position: At least one individual fully extended. Other remains included only cranial fragments and dental remains.
Orientation: Skeletal remains lying east-west with cranial remains to the west.
Furniture: Seventeen pottery vessels, one crab (Gecarcinidae) claw, 32 disk-shaped shell (Spondylus ?) beads, two conch (Strombus) shell buttons, two jade pendants, four jade beads, one spindle whorl, one mano fragment, ten mussel shells and two obsidian blade fragments.
Date: A charcoal sample from within the tomb produced a radiocarbon date of about A.D. 450 (Appendix B). Ceramic remains indicate usage of the tomb between the Early Classic (Tzakol 3) and Late Classic (Tepeu 2) periods.
Discussion and Comparisons: The majority of the pottery vessels (Vessels 5,6,7,8,9,12,13 and 14) located in Burial 1 were at the western end of the tomb, a few of them placed on top of each other (Fig. 11). Vessels 1 through 4 lay parallel to the southern wall of the tomb and adjacent to each other. Vessels 15 and 16 were similarly
deposited along the northern wall. Only two vessels (11 and 17) were found centrally located along the transverse axis of the chamber. The latter, a polychrome dish, was in the center of the tomb, lying upside down (the only vessel so positioned). Vessel 11, also polychrome, was placed between vessel 17 and the other vessels in the western end of the burial chamber.

After recording and removing the vessels, excavation through the fine layer of soil above the tomb floor revealed fragments of two more vessels (5 and 12). Vessel 5, a broken polychrome bowl, was located along the southwestern corner of the chamber while vessel 12, a large jar, lay partly under vessel 10. Beneath vessel 12 was a claw of a freshwater species of crab (Gecarcinidae) commonly found in the streams of the Chiquibul forest. Other shell remains from the tomb included 32 tiny (5mm diameter) disc-shaped beads (Fig. 153e), ten mussel shells recovered from between vessels 11 and 17 and two unperforated conch (Strombus) shell discs (Fig. 153h-i).

Most of the skeletal remains in the tomb were in extremely poor condition and unrecoverable. Nonetheless, we were still able to salvage some bones and probably all of the teeth present. The majority of the preserved bones consisted of foot bones (mostly metatarsals and phalanges) concentrated at approximately 40 centimeters from the east end of the tomb, and associated with a single jade bead.
Another large quantity of skeletal material consisted of large and small cranial fragments. These were mostly found in the western end of the tomb, approximately 40 to 60 centimeters from the south wall, between vessels 5, 11, 13 and 14. There is some suggestion that the vessels were placed about the skulls after interment. Below and around the skull fragments were two jade pendants and three jade beads (Fig. 136c-d). The vast majority of human teeth came from the west end of the tomb. A dozen of the upper incisors had undergone intentional mutilation through filing.

West of the cranial fragments a fourth jade bead, oval in shape, was recovered. A carved stone spindle whorl was located just east of this bead along the transverse axis of the chamber (Fig. 138c). Also recovered from the central area were numerous rib fragments, two small obsidian blade fragments and a fair quantity of charcoal. A sample of the latter was moved for chronometric dating. The only other artefact found was a fragment of a granite mano from the north end of the tomb. Several other bones retrieved were all from an unidentified species of rodent (most likely mice).

Evidence from the skeletal and especially the dental remains indicate that the crypt was utilized for multiple interments. Judging from the associated ceramics these burials were likely to have been sequential, and possibly spread over a span of several centuries from perhaps 450-850 A.D. The majority of the artefactual remains suggest predominant usage in the Tepeu 1 and Tepeu 2 (600-850 A.D.) phases of the Late Classic Period. The suggestion of
collective inhumation over a long period of time is further reinforced by the distribution of skeletal remains. Although some of the remains could have been secondary burials, the exclusive location of cranial fragments in the south end of the chamber, foot bones in the north, and rib and long bones in the center of the tomb, hints strongly that the principal type of burial employed was primary and in the extended form. From the small size of the tomb, however, it is apparent that all eight individuals represented by the skeletal remains could not have been interred, in the flesh, simultaneously.

Although individual inhumation is clearly the most common mode of burial in the Maya area, multiple burials have been reported from a wide variety of sites in both the highlands and lowlands. From the southern Maya Lowlands, the region to which Caledonia belongs, Cahal Cunil (Thompson 1931:292-3), Palenque, Floresta, Lago Lacandon, Holmul, Tzimin Kax, Copan, Caracol and Acasaguastlan (Ruz 1968: unnumbered tables at rear) have all produced evidence on multiple burials. At Altar de Sacrificios, Smith (1972:214) reports seven multiple burials, but there were never more than three individuals represented and in no case more than one adult to a grave. Uaxactun had four multiple burials including one with five skeletons (Smith 1950:89). At Tikal, Burial 10 had an impressive assemblage of ten individuals in one crypt (Coe 1965:27-31). Hammond, Pretty and Saul (1975) describe a tomb at Lubaantun which had 15 mature individuals. Probably the most remarkable accumulation of human remains from one lowland crypt occurred in
Tomb III at Guaytan in the Motagua Valley, Guatemala. Here a Late Classic crypt, only slightly larger than that of Caledonia, held the remains of 37 individuals. The majority of the diagnostic remains were crania, but a number of skeletons were still articulated (Smith and Kidder 1943:126).

Multiple burials are also known from highlands Maya sites such as Zacaleu, where some 37 graves had multiple interments, Nebaj, Tzicuay and Kaminaljuyu (Hammond et al. 1975:67-68). Hammond, Pretty and Saul (1975) have noted that both simultaneous multiple burials (with sacrificial victims likely being interred) and sequential multiple burials may have taken place prehistorically. In the latter case, arguments have been made that the tombs bearing multiple interments remained open, or at least available, over long periods of time. Subsequently, when the chamber was needed, bones of the earlier burials were swept aside to make room for the new interment. This appears to have been the case at Guaytan, Lubaantun and Cahal Cunil, all located in the southern lowlands.

At Caledonia, it appears that the very last inhumation in Str. A-1 was of the extended variety. Furthermore, many of the remaining post-cranial bones of other or preceding burials were either removed by the Maya, or had already decomposed. The crania of previously buried individuals, however, seem to have been kept together in the tomb judging from the concentrated accumulation of teeth in the
southern zone. The same kind of special attention to the disposition of skulls occurred at Guaytan, Cahal Cunil and Lubaantun.

**Burial 2**

Grave type: In urn.
Location: Excavation 62, along the primary axis of Str. A-1, beneath stairway 2, one meter below surface.
Condition: Poor.
Sex and Age: One child, sex undetermined, no older than five years.
Position: Skeletal remains within large bowl indicating secondary burial.
Furniture: One pottery vessel (Fig. 120).
Date: Late Classic (Tepeu 2).
Discussion and Comparison: The human remains from this burial included two teeth, one molar and one incisor, and four fragments of long bones, all located within a large bowl.

According to Smith (1972:212) urn burials have been reported at various sites in the Peten and Usumacinta Valley but are more common in the Yucatan, the highlands and Pacific coast of Guatemala. At Dzibilchaltun, Andrews and Andrews, (1980:314-120) located 12 urn burials. These mostly contained children or infants often deposited in unlined holes in structural fill. Furthermore, they report that urn burials were represented
throughout the sites chronological sequence. At Mayapan, Smith (1954:55) reported two similar burials with the remains of children.

The site containing the largest number of this burial type (70 in total) is Jaina. Here all the burials within pottery vessels were of infants and the majority were flexed (Ruz 1965:453). Nearer Caledonia, Thompson reports urn burials at San Jose (Thompson 1939:219-220) and at Tzimin Kax (1931:320). At the latter, however, the skeletal remains were of an adult (probably female), and the urn burial was associated with a male interred in a crypt. The closest replication of the Caledonia burial appears to be Burial 101 at Altar de Sacrificios (Smith 1972:260). Dating to the Early Classic, this burial was fairly similar in provenance, age of individual, and burial container. The major difference is the Late Classic date of the Caledonia burial.

At Altun Ha, Pendergast (1979:29) suggested that burials of similar context were secondary and placed as dedicatory offerings. Considering that Burial 1 was within the same level and architectural phase as Burial 2, and that the latter is located along the primary axis of Str. A-1, there is a strong suggestion that Burial 2 may indeed be secondary and dedicatory in nature. It is also possible that the skeletal material in Burial 2 may very well represent the remains of a sacrificial victim. According to Thompson (1939:219-220) a large number of child and infant burials at San Jose suggests sacrifice connected with dedicatory practices. Although there is no “real proof” of child sacrifice at
Altar, several burials indicate this practice. Smith (1972:221) reports that three of the children burials from this site were located in axial position, and it is unlikely that the individuals “should die naturally at the same time and be buried in the same place. It is possible that human sacrifice was carried on here as a votive offering to the building of the temple mound.” To this Ruz (1965:221) adds that, “Another custom involving human sacrifice was that of burying victims at the inauguration, or termination of the construction, of a civil or ceremonial building.” Many children burials, he continues, “shows indications of being foundation or dedication sacrifices” (Ruz 1965:459).
Burial 3

Grave type: Cist, probably intrusive.
Location: Below plaza floor at the base of the stairway of Str. C-2, in line with the primary axis of the structure. In Operation 3, 42 centimeters below the plaza floor.
Condition: Poor.
Sex and Age: Four adult, male individuals, averaging between 20 and 40 years.
Position: Two individuals were interred in a sitting position with their heads on their knees and arms around their legs. A third individual was probably lying in a flexed position with its skull covered by a large bowl and protected by a large stone disc. The position of the fourth individual was undetermined.
Orientation: East-west, with seated individuals to the east and the skull of the flexed individual to the west.
Furniture: An incurving bowl (Fig. 82), seven miniature eccentrics (Figs. 149-150a,b), two tapered stemmed points (Fig. 150c-d), one obsidian core (Fig. 148d) and a large stone disc.
Date: Late Classic (Tepeu 2).
Discussion and Comparisons: It is interesting to note that Burial 3 was located directly below a spot where a large section of the plaza had been destroyed. Although it was difficult to ascertain whether this destruction was the result of prehistoric activity associated with the laying of the burial, or the work of natural forces (tree roots), the data supports the former. This was indicated by the presence of the
well preserved floor throughout the excavation excepting the section
directly above the burial. If the stone disc, used to cover one of the
individuals interred, is also accepted as being a ballcourt marker,
then it is very possible that Burial 3 was intrusive. It this was the
case it is also possible that the individuals represent victims of
“foundation or dedication sacrifices” (Ruz 1965:459).

No parallel example of Burial 3 could be found in the literature.
Burials in seated position appear to be equally rare. Thompson
(1931; 1939) reports two examples from Belize; one at San Jose, the
other, not far from Caledonia at Tzimin Kax. Although poor
preservation of the skeletal remains made the position of the burial
at San Jose somewhat doubtful, the Tzimin Kax example was well
preserved. It included the skeleton of a young, male adult placed
within a tomb, next to which were the remains of a woman in an urn
(Thompson 1931:320).

The closest similarity with Caledonia Burial 3 is found at Copan.
According to Ruz (1965:448) some Late Classic burials at this site
were seated, and, “in one case the head was protected by a stone
slab.” Perhaps the reason for the limited geographical occurrence of
this burial type may be that it was a southern lowland Late Classic
practice.
Burial 4 (Fig. 20)

Grave type: Crypt (tomb).
Location: Operation 3, below stairway 2 and along the primary axis of Str. C-2.
Condition: Very Poor
Sex and Age: Three adult individuals of which at least two were males, 40 years or older. The third individual is probably female, between the ages of 20 and 30 years old.
Position: At least one individual in extended position and face up. The position of the other two is questionable but most likely was extended as well.
Orientation: North-south, with head lying to the south.
Furniture: Twelve pottery vessels, one jade bead, 3 jade or jadeite ear ornaments, one shell bead, two bone needle fragments, two antler fragments, six obsidian blade fragments, two spindle whorls and four fragments of a shell mosaic.
Date: Late Classic (Tepeu 1-2).
Discussion and Comparisons: Eleven of the vessels associated with the burial had been deposited along the southern wall of the tomb. These vessels included nine polychrome plates, two vases and two bowls. A twelfth vessel (vase) was deposited at the center of the room, along the long axis of the chamber.

After removing the centrally located vase, excavation in the southern end of the room uncovered several poorly preserved cranial and rib fragments. The latter lay just below where the vase
had been, indicating that it had been placed over the individual(s) after interment. Other artefactual remains recovered from above the tomb floor included one jade bead (Fig. 136e), three jade or jadeite ear ornaments (Fig. 136f-g), one shell pendant (Fig. 153j), two fragments of a bone needle (Fig. 153b-c), three antler fragments (Figs. 152a-b, 153a), six obsidian blade fragments (Fig. 147f), two spindle whorls (Fig. 138a-b), and four fragments of a shell mosaic (Fig. 153f). Except for the last three, all the artefacts were found to the right and left of the rib fragments. The obsidian, spindle whorl and mosaic fragments all came from the north end of the tomb, approximately where the feet of the individuals may have been.

According to Ruz (1968) burials in crypts are very common, in time and space, throughout the Maya area. On the other hand, multiple burials in tombs are less common. The discussion in Burial 1 provides comparative data for this practice. Unlike Burial 1, however, Burial 4 does not indicate intermittent usage of the crypt, or sequential interment of the three individuals. This poses the question of whether or not all three individuals within the grave represent a single interment, or, whether two of them may actually represent sacrificial victims accompanying some noble personage. Considering that the size of the crypt is too small to have accommodated three individuals in the flesh, it is more likely that the latter observation is the case with Burial 4. This practice was fairly widespread in the Maya area, and is discussed in great detail by Coe (1959:131-132).
Burial 5 (Fig. 25)

Grave type: Simple
Location: Operation 6, in sterile soil below floor 7, along the primary axis of Str. C-1.
Condition: Fair.
Sex and Age: One adult female approximately 60 years of age.
Orientation: East-west, with the head facing east.
Furniture: One body sherd (jar).
Date: Late Preclassic.
Discussion and Comparison: Burial 5 was located beneath a layer of aggregate and below what might be the earliest structure at the site. In comparison with the previous burials it was relatively poor in material remains. The only furniture associated with the burial included a single decorated fragment of a jar. This was found resting above the left scapula of the individual. Furthermore, Burial 5 probably represents the only single female burial recovered within the ceremonial structures tested at the site. Also of interest is that the cranial remains of the individual suggest that she died a violent death (see Appendix A for more detail).

The reason for the relative poverty in grave goods may be twofold. It either reflects a male bias in the society, or, the relative poverty of the site’s population in the Late Preclassic. If we consider that the site was most likely settled in Late Preclassic times, then the latter
observation is feasible, for the individual in Burial 5 undoubtedly represents one of the earliest settlers at Caledonia.

Intersite comparisons with Burial 5 are very widespread. According to Ruz (1968), simple burials predominate throughout the Maya area. The flexed position is somewhat more variable. At some sites they are predominant in the Late Preclassic and Early Classic, while at others they occur more often in Late Classic times. The former is especially true for the lowland Maya region (Smith 1972:213), thus it would seem that Burial 5 at Caledonia reflects this pattern.
Caches

Introduction

In this thesis the term “cache” is used in agreement with the definition offered by W.R. Coe. In this definition the term, “refers to one or more objects found together, but apart from burials, whose grouping and situation point to intentional interment as an offering” (Coe 1959:77).

Caches may also be dedicatory or non-dedicatory. The distinctions made by Coe and applied in this report are as follows: a dedicatory cache, “indicates placement with a monument, or during construction of an architectural feature planned to cover it, … A non-dedicatory cache is one that was made through an existing surface during the occupation of the surface” (Coe 1959:78).

The four cache deposits found at Caledonia included both types of offerings. Three were dedicatory and one non-dedicatory. With the exception of the latter, all were in axial locations.

Cache components included a variety of objects. Foremost among these were pottery vessels and all were associated with ceremonial structures. This practice is very similar to the pattern observed by Thompson (1931) at the Mountain Cow Complex. Ten of the structural deposits recorded by Thompson emphasized pottery
remains but included a variety of other objects. A predominance of pottery vessels in caches was also noted at Altar de Sacrificios where Smith (1972:208) reports that they occurred in practically all phases of the site’s history.

The Caledonia caches are numbered sequentially in the numerical order in which they were found. Illustrations and intersite comparisons of cache components are provided in Chapter 4. For a more extensive discussion on caches the reader should refer Coe (1959:77-119) and Smith (1972:205-211, 235-242).

Cache 1

Type: Dedicatory
Location: Excavation 61, below the plaza floor, at the base of the stairway of Str. A-1 and along the primary axis of the structure.
Contents: One obsidian core (Fig. 148c) two unperforated ceramic discs (Fig. 135b) and two limestone beads (Fig. 137b).
Date: Late Classic (Tepeu 2).
Remarks: Both cache items had simply been deposited beside each other then covered over by the plaza floor.

Cache 2

Type: Non-dedicatory
Location: Operation 2, intrusive pit below floor 1 on Str. C-2.
Contents: Two pottery vessels (1 jar, 1 bowl [Figs. 106, 121]).
Date: Late Classic (Tepeu 3).
Remarks: The small jar had been placed within the bowl and deposited in a small circular pit dug into floor 1. These were then covered over with fine soil and no attempt was made to replaster the original floor surface.

Cache 3

Type: Dedicatory
Location: Operation 3, on the primary axis of Str. C-2, below platform 2 and in front of the doorway leading into the vaulted room of the structure.
Contents: One jar (Fig. 104).
Date: Late Classic (Tepeu 2).
Remarks: A cream coloured lens of soil within the base of the jar suggested that some floral or faunal material may have originally been deposited inside the vessel.

Cache 4

Type: Dedicatory.
Location: Operation 5, below floor 2, along the primary axis of Str. C-2, just inside the doorway of the vaulted room.
Contents: One pottery vessel (polychrome bowl [Fig. 52]), one ceramic rectangle (Fig. 134), two crab (Gecarcinidae) claws and one obsidian blade (Fig. 147c).
Date: Late Classic (Tepeu 1-2).
Remarks: The ceramic rectangle was located beside (south of) the bowl. The crab claws and obsidian blade had been deposited within the bowl.
CHAPTER 4 – ARTEFACT DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction

The artefacts described herein include material from the 1980 and 1984 seasons of investigation. In both seasons the artefacts were washed, catalogued and divided into categories in the field. Subsequently, a more detailed analysis was conducted at Trent University in Ontario, Canada.

In the lab, as in the field, the methodology employed for classifying the artefacts followed that of Willey (1978) at Seibal. Initially this constituted the division of artefacts into categories, “based on materials used or on those materials together with certain modes of manufacture” (Willey 1978:1). Each category was then divided into forms, based on clusters of attributes; and form classes further subdivided into sub-classes, based on technological, stylistic and minor variations.

All the artefacts were placed under one of the two major categories: ceramic and non-ceramic. The former included pottery vessels and all other artefacts made of pottery. The latter included artefacts made of stone, bone and shell. The ceramics were then classified by artefact form (Pendergast 1969, 1970, 1971, 1974), while non-
ceramic artefacts follow the classification procedures described by Willey (1978).

After standard descriptions were made, all the Caledonia artefacts were compared with published material from Belizean and other lowland Maya sites. Comparisons with, and of, regionally unique and unpublished specimens were also made with material in the Belize Department of Archaeology collection, and material presently being analyzed at Trent University. These comparisons provided the basis for the chronological placement of Caledonia within Belizean and lowland Maya prehistory, and was very indicative of the site’s temporal and spatial spheres of interaction. In several cases intersite comparisons also yielded valuable information regarding artefact function.

Ceramics

Instead of employing the type-variety system of classification, the analysis of the ceramics from Caledonia follows a modal approach. There are several reasons for this choice. Since determining the temporal and spatial position of Caledonia in Belizean prehistory was a major focus of this study, it was imperative to make comparisons with local (Chiquibul) and regional sites. Most published ceramic reports in Belize, and all for the Chiquibul (Thompson 1931; Pendergast 1965, 1969, 1970, 1971), have used
the modal rather than the type-variety system. Thus, employing the modal system would obviously facilitate intersite comparisons.

Secondly, we are very fortunate in recovering a large number of whole and partially complete vessels from several burials and offerings. This provided us with a very good basis for developing an intrasite sequence plus an excellent reference for determining shape categories for sherds from structural fill.

Thirdly, because the ceramic assemblage recovered at Caledonia basically spans part of Maya prehistory (Late Preclassic to Terminal Classic), and, because of the somewhat limited scope of our project, I felt that our sample was too small to develop an adequate type-variety sequence for the Chiquibul. Perhaps when the present work at Caracol (A. Chase, personal communication 1985) is completed, the Caledonia ceramics can be incorporated in a more definitive type-variety analysis and sequence for the region.

Finally, I elected against the type-variety system for the same reasons set forth by Pendergast (1979). He concludes that, “If we could be sure that the type-variety system brings us closer to cultural realities as they were apparent to the ancient Maya, or even as they might have been apparent to an ethnographer at work in a 7th century Maya community, there would be every reason to employ it, despite its cumbersome nature. It is my feeling, however, that the system brings us no closer to such realities, and may in fact widen
the gulf that separates us from the people whose culture we are studying.” (Pendergast 1979:33)

Briefly, the modal system employed in this study focuses on two major attributes: the presence or absence of slips; and, the form or shape of the artefact. In the first instance, the artefacts are divided into polychrome slipped, bichrome slipped, monochrome slipped, and unslipped categories, while vessel forms follow those established by Smith (1955) and Thompson (1939) with later additions by Pendergast (1970,1971) and Sabloff (1975).

Shape categories identified at Caledonia include plates, vessels with unrestricted orifices and height less than one-fifth of diameter; dishes, vessels with unrestricted orifices and height between one-third and one-fifth of diameter; bowls, vessels with slightly restricted or unrestricted orifices and height equal to but not less than one-third diameter; vases, vessels with slightly restricted or unrestricted orifices and height much greater than diameter; jars, vessels with unrestricted orifice, globular or subglobular in shape, varied rim forms and with or without necks; and pottery discs/rectangles, which are either perforated or unperforated and made from the fragments of various vessels. Two other categories, described by Pendergast (1971), which reflect function rather than shape are censers and candeleros. Censers include vessels of various forms, simple or complex in design, which indicate usage as an incense burner. Candeleros are basically miniature vessels,
generally bowl-like in shape and which may or may not have been used for burning incense.

Categories used in describing vessel thickness and temper grain size are those of Pendergast (1970:11; 1971:23-25). Unless otherwise indicated, vessel height is measures from rim to base (including appendages, feet and annular bases), and diameter is measured to the outside of the vessel rims. Vessel thickness is obtained from average measurements along vessel rims and walls, and fall under one of the following categories: eggshell, .1 to .25 centimeters; thin, .25 to .5 centimeters; medium thick, .5 to .8 centimeters; thick, .8 to 2.0 centimeters; very thick, 2.0 centimeters and above. Temper and temper grain size were identified and determined with the aid of a Bausch and Lomb 10X binocular lens microscope. Grain size categories used in this report are as follows: minute, grains invisible to the naked eye; very small, grains barely visible to the naked eye; small, grains readily visible; and large, grains with diameters greater than one-half of vessel wall.
Colour descriptions and paste texture are given for all vessels except for several specimens that remained in Belize following the first season of investigations. Colour standards used in the ceramic descriptions are those of the Munsell (1975) system while colour symbols (Fig. 28) follow standard procedures for lowland Maya ceramics (Smith 1955; Sabloff 1975). All illustrations are full size unless otherwise indicated.

Intersite ceramic comparisons were first made on a local level then extended to the regional level. Some of the site reports used in this comparison include the Mountain Cow Complex (Thompson 1931), Maria Camp (Pendergast 1965), Actun Balam (Pendergast 1969), Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970), and Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971) at the local level; and San Jose (Thompson 1939), Xunantunich (Thompson 1942), Baking Pot (Bullard and Bullard 1965), Uaxactun (Smith 1955), Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971), Seibal (Sabloff 1975), the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976) and Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979; 1982) at the regional level.
FIGURE 28: Key to Colour Symbols in Illustrations.
Comparisons were also made with the Belize Department of Archaeology collection and material from Caracol presently being analysed by B. Walsh (1985) at Trent University. Where possible, identified types and varieties are noted under the section entitled “comparison.” In addition, Appendix C lists some of the diagnostic ceramic types identified at Caledonia and includes diagnostic ceramic forms provenience charts for the four excavated structures. Table 2 indicates the prehistoric period of occupation at the site and provides a list of the ceramic complexes and phases of Belizean and other lowland Maya sites to which Caledonia was compared.
Slipped Polychrome

Title: Dish, basal flange (rim 7, body 9).

Illustration: Figure 29.

Form: Flaring to slightly rounded medium-thick sides, slightly pointed to rounded lip, with downward inclined flange about midway down the side of vessel. Base ring-shaped.

Size: Diameter 24.4-31 cm, height n.d., average thickness 0.7 cm.

Surface: Interior slipped and decorated; exterior slipped and often decorated to lip of flange. Base unslipped. Specimens for which only profiles are provided are extremely weathered.

Temper: Small grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Dark grey (7.5R 3/0), dark reddish brown (2.5YR 2.5/4), or yellowish red (5YR 4/6, 5/6). Moderately hard.

Colour: Red (10R 4/8) and black (7.5YR 2/0) on orange (5YR 7/8) or cream (7.5YR 8/4).

Decoration: Exterior, bands or lines in red, black, orange or cream between rim and lip of flange. One specimen has a band of consecutive semi-circles bordered by black vertical lines along flange. Interior lip red with geometric designs or bands and lines in red, black or orange below. Center may have had naturalistic or mythical elements.

Provenience: Strs. C-1 and C-2, Ops. 4, 5 and 6, Levels 3-5.
FIGURE 29: Basal flange dish  (Scale 1/2)
Comparison: Very few basal flanged dishes have been recovered locally. A single specimen of Tzakol 2-3 date is reported from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, fig. 6a); twenty-two fragments of Tzakol 1-2 date from Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971, fig. 7b,c) and three Holmul 5 vessels from Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931, figs. 12a,b and 13k). Close parallels in vessel form can also be found with Dos Arroyos Orange-Polychromes and Caldero Buff-Polychromes of Tzakol 2-3 date at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 3d,e,13b,26 and 76b). These similarities suggest a Tzakol 1-3 date for the Caledonia specimens.

Title: Dish, round-side, lateral ridge (6 vessels, 36 sherds). Figures 30-36.

Illustration: Figure 30

Form: Dish with lateral ridge, medium-thick sides thickened at rim, pointed lip and ring base.

Size: Diameter 29.1 cm, height 6.1 cm, wall thickness 0.6 cm.

Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior unslipped.

Temper: Small grains of calcite.

Colour: Red (7.5R 3/8, 4/8), and black (7.5R 2.5/0) on orange (5YR 7/8).
FIGURE 30: Round-side, lateral ridge dish (Scale 1/2)
Decoration: Interior, lip black and borders a band with alternating “curvilinear spirals” with thickened ends between diagonal lines. Below this decorated circumferential band are solid bands in orange, black and red. In the center of vessel is a stylised butterfly (?) or bird (?) motif. The outline and details are executed in black and red on an orange background.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (Tomb)

Comparison: Similar to material of Tepeu 1-2 date from Actun Balam Cave (Pendergast 1969, fig. 5b), Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, fig. 6b,d), and Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 36, 82). Close parallels also exist with material dated to Holmul 5 at Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931, figs. 12a,b, 15a), San Jose 3 at San Jose (Thompson 1939, fig. 56a,f-g), Tzakol 3 (Chivoy Complex) at Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971, fig. 38d), Benque Viejo 3b at Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 38c,d) and Mac Phase material from Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979, fig. 39k,m). The Caledonia specimens also seem closely related to Saturday Creek Polychrome material from the Belize River Valley (Gifford 1976, figs. 114a-h, 115a). A Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 2 date seems likely for the Caledonia specimens.
FIGURE 31: Round-side, lateral ridge dish (Scale 1/2)
Illustration: Figure 31.

Form: Dish with medium-thick round sides, slight lateral ridge, direct rim, rounded lip and ring base.

Size: Diameter 28.8 cm, height 7.5 cm, wall thickness 0.7 cm.

Surface: Interior, slipped and painted but very weathered; exterior, slipped and painted along lateral ridge only.

Temper: Small grains of calcite.

Colour: Similar to figure 30.

Decoration: Interior lip is black, below which are alternating circumferential lines in orange, red and black enclosing a central motif, scene, or mythical (avian?) creature. The vessel exterior is unslipped except for a red painted band along the lateral ridge.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).

Comparison: Similar to figure 30. Date, Tepeu 1-2.
FIGURE 32: Round-side, lateral ridge dish (Scale 2/3)
Illustration: Figure 32.

Form: Dish with round, medium sides, thickened at rim, lateral ridge, slightly pointed lip and ring base.

Size: Diameter 25.5 cm, height 6.7 cm, wall thickness 0.75 cm.

Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior slipped from lip to ridge only.

Temper: Small grains of calcite.

Paste: Black (7.5YR 2.5/0) core with red (10R 4/8) borders.

Colour: Same as figures 30 and 31.

Decoration: Poorly preserved. Interior, red lip band below which are red chevrons alternated with black-painted glyphs which are extremely eroded. Below the chevrons and glyphs is a black band and thin black line which, together, probably enclosed a mythical animal or abstract motif. The exterior is painted red between the vessel lip and lateral ridge.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).

Comparison: Similar to figures 30 and 31.
FIGURE 33: Round-side, lateral ridge dish (Scale 2/5)
Illustration: Figure 33.

Form: Dish with medium-thick walls, slightly pointed lips, ring base and lateral ridge.

Size: Diameter 29.8 cm, height 8 cm, wall thickness 0.6 cm.

Surface: Interior, slipped and painted: exterior, slipped and painted from lip to ridge only.

Temper: Small grains of calcite.

Colour: Same as figure 30.

Decoration: Interior, lip red above encircling black lines enclosing alternating “comb” motifs and “triple brackets” with curvilinear spirals on a red background. Below are additional encircling bands in red, orange and black enclosing a deer. The deer is outlined in black, filled in with red, on an orange background. Exterior, lip and ridge red with a black band in between, and separated by unslipped areas.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).

Comparison: Similar to figures 30-32. The vessel also portrays great similarity, in form and execution of design, with specimens from Actun Balam and Rio Frio E Caves (Pendergast 1969, fig. 6d; 1970 fig. 5b). Close parallels also exist with Saxche Orange Polychromes (Tepeu 1) from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 36) and Mac Phase vessels from Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979, Fig. 39k,m).
FIGURE 34: Round-side, lateral ridge dish (Scale 1/2)
Illustration: Figure 34.

Form: Dish with medium-thick sides, rounded lip, ring base and lateral ridge

Size: Diameter 25.5 cm, height 6.4 cm, thickness 0.65 cm.

Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior slipped and painted from lip to ridge only.

Temper: Small grains of calcite.

Paste: Moderately hard. Colour of core is black (7.5YR 2/0) with red (10R 4/8) borders.

Colour: Same as figures 30-33.

Decoration: Poorly preserved. Interior, lip black and borders a band of glyphs (probably functional). Below there is a red band which probably bordered a central motif or mythical creature. Exterior, lip black with encircling bands in red and black. Area from ridge to base is unslipped and probably fire-clouded.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).

Comparison: Same as figures 30-33. Similar glyphs on vessels are reported from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 32b9; 72d), and may be a variant of Thompson's (1960) fig. 6.
FIGURE 35: Round-side, lateral ridge dish (Scale 1/2)
FIGURE 36: Round-side lateral ridge dish
Illustration: Figure 35.
Form: Dish with medium-thick walls, rounded lip, ring base and lateral ridge.
Size: Diameter 27 cm, height 7.6 cm, thickness 0.8 cm.
Surface: Interior slipped and painted, exterior plain and unslipped.
Temper: Small grains of calcite.
Colour: Same as figures 30-34.
Decoration: Interior, lip red above encircling black lines enclosing a series of “terraces” outlined in black on a red background. “Terraces” also enclose solid black “hand bells” on an orange background. Below are other encircling bands and lines in red, orange and black which probably bordered a geometric design or motif. Exterior, plain.
Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).
Comparison: Same as figures 30-34. Similar designs from Uaxactun are described by Smith (1955, Vol. 1, pp. 64-68).
Illustration: Figure 36

Form: Dish with round, medium-thick sides thickened at rim, rounded lip, ring base and lateral ridge.

Size: Diameter 26-29 cm, height n.d., thickness 0.6-0.7 cm.

Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior unslipped.

Temper: Small grains of calcite.

Paste: Moderately hard. Colour changes from very dark grey (7.5R 3/0) to black (7.5R 2.5/0) core with red (10R 4/8) borders.

Colour: Red (7.5R ¾, 4/8) and black (7.5R 2.5/0) on orange (5YR 7/8)

Decoration: Interior, black or orange lip above encircling lines and bands in black, orange and red. One specimen (a) has a circular design outlined in black on an orange background, while another (b) has consecutive red dots along vessel wall. The centers of these vessels may have had geometrical or mythical designs or motifs.

Provenience: Str. C-1, Ops. 4 & 6, Levels 3 and 4; Str. C-2, Op. 5, Level 3.

Comparison: These specimens are identical, in form and execution of design, to lateral ridge dishes from Burial 1 (Str. A-1) at Caledonia and presumably of the same temporal placement (Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 1).
FIGURE 38: Round-side dish with ring base (Scale 2/3)
Title: Dish, round side, ring base (7 vessels, 19 rim, 62 body), Figures 37-44.

Illustration: Figure 37.

Form: Rounded, medium-thick sides, rounded lip, ring base.

Size: Diameter 24.5 cm, height 6.4 cm, thickness 0.83 cm.

Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior unslipped and highly burnished.

Temper: Small grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Yellowish red (5YR 4/6, 5/6), soft and crumbly.

Colour: Red (5R 3/8, 4/8) and black (5YR 2.5/0) on orange (5YR 7/8).

Decoration: Interior, lip red with consecutive bands in red and black encircling vessel wall. Center probably decorated with some mythical creature or design but indistinguishable due to poor preservation. Exterior, unslipped but highly smoothed and burnished.

Provenience: Str. C-2, Burial 4 (tomb).

Comparison: According to Pendergast (1971:34), round-side, ring-based dished are not very common at cave sites in the Chiquibul. On the other hand, Thompson (1931:298, fig. 11k) reports that they are the most common form in the Holmul 5 horizon at Tzimin Kax. They also occur at Rio Frio E and Eduardo Quiroz Caves where Pendergast (1970, fig. 7a,b; 1971 fig. 8a-e) dates them between Tzakol 3 and Tepeu 1. Marked similarities are also present with vessels from the Tiger Run Complex (Saturday Creek Polychrome:
FIGURE 39: Round-side dish with ring base (Scale 3:4)
Variety unspecified) at Barton Ramie (Gifford 1976, fig. 115), and Benque Viejo 3a-b deposits at Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 34). At Uaxactun, vessels of similar form and decoration occur among Tzakol 3 polychromes (Smith 1955, fig. 35) while at Altar de Sacrificios affinities can be seen with Saxche Orange Polychrome plates of the Veremos Complex (Adams 1971, fig. 37). A Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 2 date is suggested for the Caledonia material.

Illustration: Figure 38

Form: Dish with rounded, medium-thick sides, rounded to pointed lip and ring base.

Size: Diameter 21.5 cm, height 5 cm, thickness 0.9 cm.

Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior unslipped with some fire clouding from base to lower half of vessel.

Temper: Small to medium-size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Moderately hard, with black (7.5R 2.5/0) core and orange (5YR 5/8) borders.

Colour: Same as figure 37 (red and black on orange).

Decoration: Interior, black rim with encircling and alternating bands in red, black and orange, enclosing motif or design resembling an orchid. The design is red with black borders and may be distinctive of the Chiquibul region. Exterior, plain and unslipped.

Provenience: Str. C-2, Burial 4 (tomb).

Comparison: Same as figure 37.
FIGURE 40: Round-side dish with ring base (Scale 3/4)
Illustration: Figure 39.

Form: Dish with rounded, medium-thick sides, rounded lip and ring base.

Size: Diameter 28.3 cm, height 8.5 cm, thickness 0.75 cm.

Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior unslipped and smoothed.

Temper: Small to medium-size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Hard, with black (7.5R 2.5/0) core and light red (10R 4/8) borders.

Colour: Same as figure 37 (red and black on orange).

Decoration: Interior, rim red with possible alternating and encircling wide bands in red and black, probably enclosing a central motif or design (difficult to determine due to poor preservation).

Provenience: Str. C-2, Burial 4 (tomb).

Comparison: Same as figure 37.
Illustration: Figure 40.
Form: Dish with slightly rounded, medium-thick sides, rounded lips and ring base.
Size: Diameter 25.4 cm, height 5 cm, thickness 0.75 cm.
Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior unslipped and burnished.
Temper: Small grains of calcite and quartz sand.
Paste: Yellowish red (5Yr 4/6).
Colour: Same as figure 37 (red and black on orange).
Decoration: Poorly preserved. Interior, black rim with circumferential bands in red and black on orange background, probably enclosing motif or design at center.
Provenience: Str. C-1, Burial 4 (tomb).
Comparison: Same as figure 37.

Illustration: Figure 41.
Form: Dish with rounded, medium-thick sides, rounded lip and ring base.
Size: Diameter 21.2 cm, height 4.7 cm, thickness 0.61 cm.
Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior unslipped and smoothed.
Temper: Small grains of calcite and quartz sand.
Paste: Moderately hard; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6).
Colour: Same as figure 37 (red and black on orange).
FIGURE 43: Round-side dish with ring base (Scale 4/5)
FIGURE 44: Round-side dish with ring base
Decoration: Poorly preserved. Interior, black rim above alternating red and orange bands probably enclosing a motif or design at center. Bands and motif are on an orange background.

Provenience: Str. C-2, Burial 4 (tomb).

Comparison: Same as figure 37.

Illustration: Figure 42.

Form: Dish with rounded, medium-thick sides, rounded lip and ring base.

Size: Diameter 25.6 cm, height 5 cm, thickness 0.7 cm.

Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior unslipped and highly burnished.

Temper: Small grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Moderately hard with black (7.5R 2.5/0) core and red (5YR 5/8) borders.

Colour: Same as figure 37 (red and black on orange).

Decoration: Poorly preserved. Interior has a black rim band above alternating bands in orange and red. Center may have had a decorative motif.

Provenience: Str. C-2, burial 4 (tomb)

Comparison: Same as figure 37.
FIGURE 45: Flaring to round-side plate
Illustration: Figure 43.
Form: Dish with rounded, medium-thick sides, rounded lip and ring base.
Size: Diameter 27 cm, height 5.2 cm, thickness 0.65 cm.
Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior unslipped and smoothed.
Temper: Small grains of calcite and quartz sand.
Paste: Very crumbly and uniformly red (5R 5/8).
Colour: Same as Figure 37 (red and black on orange)
Decoration: Very poorly preserved. Interior, black rim band above consecutive bands in red, black and orange that may have enclosed a central motif or design.
Provenience: Str. C-2, Burial 4 (tomb).
Comparison: Same as figure 37.

Illustration: Figure 44.
Form: Dish with rounded, medium-thick sides, rounded lip and base probably ring shaped.
Size: Diameter 22-28 cm, height n.d., thickness 0.5-0.8 cm.
Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior generally unslipped (one specimen [a] slipped along rim) but smoothed.
Temper: Small grains of calcite and quartz sand.
Paste: Moderately hard with colour ranging from very dark grey (5YR 3/1) to black (5YR 2.5/1) or red (10R 4/6).
Colour: Red (10R 4/8) and black (5YR 2.5/1) on orange or cream (7.5YR 7/6, 7/8).
Decoration: Interior, black or red rim bands above encircling lines or bands in red, black, orange or cream. Lines and bands on some specimens enclose curvilinear or naturalistic designs along vessel wall or center. Exterior, generally plain. One specimen (a) has a red rim band.


Comparison: Same as Figure 37.
FIGURE 46: Round-side bowl with incurving rim (Scale 1:4)
Title: Plate, flaring to slightly rounded sides (rim 41, body 63). Figure 45.

Illustration: Figure 45.

Form: Thin to medium-thick flaring or slight rounded sides, pointed or slightly rounded lip and ring base.

Size: Diameter 24.4-31.0 cm, height n.d., thickness 0.5-0.9 cm.

Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior generally unslipped or slipped to just below rim. Exterior unslipped but usually burnished or smoothed.

Temper: Very small to small grains of tuff and/or calcite.

Paste: Moderately hard. Colours include reddish yellow (5yr 7/6, 6/6), very dark grey and black (7.5YR 2/0, 3/0).

Colour: Red (10R 4/8, 5/8) and black (7.5YR 2/0) on orange (5YR 7/8) or cream (7.5YR 8/4).

Decoration: Interior, rim band generally black but sometimes red, and rarely orange. Below are alternating circumferential bands or lines in red or black on an orange or cream background. One specimen (c) has wavy bands below the lip. It is possible that these lines or bands may have enclosed a central design or motif.

Provenience: Structural fill in Strs. A-1, C-1, and C-2, Excav. 64 and Ops. 3,4,5 and 6; Levels 2-3.

Comparison: Plates of similar form and design, dating between Tzakol 3 and Tepeu 1, are very common at Rio Frio E and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1970, fig. 7a,b; 197a, fig. 8a-e). The only comparable material from nearby surface sites is a Holmul 5
FIGURE 47: Round-side bowl with incurving rim (Scale 1/2)
specimen from Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931, fig. 11k). Elsewhere vessels of this form occur in the Tiger Run Complex (Saturday Creek Polychrome) at Barton Ramie (Willey et al. 1965, figs. 221e,f,h; 229 and 230), among Benque Viejo 3b deposits at Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 34), and Tzakol 3 material at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 35a). These similarities suggest that the Caledonia specimens date to between Late Early Classic (Tzakol 3) and Early Late Classic (Tepeu 2) times.

**Title**: Bowls, round sides, incurving rim (7 vessels, 36 sherds). Figures 46-53.

**Illustration**: Figure 46.

**Form**: Bowl with thin round sides, incurving at rim, lip slightly rounded to pointed and concave base.

**Size**: Diameter 17 cm, height 13 cm, thickness 0.4 cm.

**Surface**: Interior and exterior slipped, painted and polished.

**Colour**: Red and black on orange.

**Decoration**: Interior, black painted lip below which are consecutive circumferential bands in orange and red, with orange slip continuing until about mid-wall. Exterior, lip black. Directly below lip is a red band which is repeated near bottom of vessel. These enclose an orange field with a glyph band (in black) running above a series of
stylised “cockroach” (or beetle) designs outlined in black and filled with red and orange.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb)

Comparison: Similar material are reported from all the following:
Holmul 5 at Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931, fig. 13m-n); the Early Late Classic at Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971, fig. 6a-f); Tepeu 1 at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 32b, 33, 34c7); Tiger Run Complex in the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976, figs. 120a-I, 123); the Mac Phase at Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979, figs. 34a, 37a,c-e, 39j); the Chivoy Complex at Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971, figs. 37, 38d-e, 39a-b, 41c, 42a, 43c, 44a-b, 45a-b; Chart 8 form 2h) and the Tepejilote Complex at Seibal (Sabloff 1975, figs. 240, 250a, 252, 253, 268-270, 282a). The vessel is very similar to the central Peten Saxche Ceramic Group, Peten Gloss Ware. In particular, its closest correlations are with Saxche Orange-Polychromes. Gifford (1976:192) notes that Saxche Polychromes are a Peten product and only rarely found in the Belize Valley, yet very prominent in the Peten. Judging from the comparative material, the vessel could date as early as 550 A.D. especially since the Chivoy and Mac Phases cut across the Tzakol 3 and Tepeu 1 phases. By contrast, the Tepejilote Complex cuts across Tepeu 1-2, and could place the bowl as late as 850 A.D. The vessel’s context and association, however, suggests an earlier assignment, late Tzakol 3 or early Tepeu 1.

A search of the literature for the roach motif revealed some similarities on Tepeu 2 vessels at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 39b1, 3, 61a18-21). One of the glyphs present on the band also seems to be a variant of a glyph on a vessel from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs.
Smith (1955:72) further describes the glyph as probably being the day glyph *Imix*.

**Illustration:** Figure 47.

**Form:** Bowl with thin round sides, incurving at rim, rounded lip and concave base.

**Size:** Diameter 15.9 cm, height 16 cm, thickness 0.4 cm.

**Surface:** Interior and exterior slipped, painted and moderately burnished. Base unslipped.

**Colour:** Red and black on orange.

**Decoration:** Interior, narrow red lip band with rest of interior slipped orange. Exterior has narrow red band along lip with thin, red, horizontal lines running to the base of the vessel. These horizontal lines are broken by three poorly preserved designs, partly outlined in black. The motif seems to be repeated three times and one, which is slightly less eroded, appears to depict a feathered headdress or spread avian wing.

**Provenience:** Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).

**Comparison:** Same as figure 46.

**Illustration:** Figure 48.

**Form:** Bowl with thin round sides, slightly incurving and thickened at rim and concave base.

**Size:** Diameter 18 cm, height 14 cm, average thickness 0.5 cm.
Surface: Exterior slipped and painted. Interior slipped and painted only in upper half of vessel.

Colour: Red and black on orange.

Decoration: Exterior, black rim below which is an orange band above a series of “hand bells” in solid black along with two “terraces” outlined in black, one filled in red, the other in orange and nested on each other. Between the “terraces” there are other upside-down “hand bells.” Below these are a number of bands in red and orange and a band of black “hand bells” on orange background, with alternating ones facing the opposite direction and separated by a zigzag red band. Along the base are two black bands. Interior, painted orange.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).

Comparison: Same as figure 46. This vessel also displays close parallels with Tepeu 1 material from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 32b4, 33a19) and specimens of the Chivoy Complex (specifically Saxche Orange Polychrome: Acul Variety) from Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971, fig. 38d).

Illustration: Figure 49.

Form: Bowl with round, medium-thick sides, incurring at rim, rounded lips and concave base.

Size: Diameter 17 cm, height 11.5 cm, thickness 0.5 cm.
Surface: Interior slipped and painted on upper half of vessel. Exterior slipped and painted except at base.

Colour: Red and black on orange.

Decoration: Interior, orange with black lip band. Exterior, poorly preserved, lip black above encircling bands in red and black enclosing a band of “U’s” (placed sideways) or “cursive chevrons” outlined in black on a red and orange background.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).

Comparison: Same as figure 46. Vessels of similar form and design are also reported from Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 36g) and Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 32a21).

Illustration: Figure 50.

Form: Bowl with round, medium-thick sides, slightly incurving at rim, slightly pointed lip and concave base.

Size: Diameter 21.8 cm, height 9.6 cm, thickness 0.5 cm.

Surface: Poorly preserved. Interior and exterior slipped and painted except at base.

Colour: Red and black on orange.

Decoration: Interior orange with black lip band. Exterior, poorly preserved, lip black. Below, a red band borders alternating designs or motifs painted in red and black on an orange background and probably separated by horizontal bands and lines in red and black.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial (tomb).

Comparison: Same as figure 46.
FIGURE 52: Round-side bowl with incurving rim (Scale 3/4)
FIGURE 53: Round-side bowl with incurving rim (Scale 1/4)
Illustration: Figure 51.

Form: Bowl with round, thin sides, incurving rim, rounded lips and flat base.

Size: Diameter 17.2 cm, height 11.5 cm, thickness 0.4 cm.

Surface: Interior slipped and painted in upper half of vessel. Exterior slipped and painted.

Colour: Red and black on orange.

Decoration: Interior, black lip above narrow red band on orange background. Exterior, black lip above three bands in orange red and orange. Enclosed by black lines is a central band of stylised “Tau terraces” with alternating “terraces” facing the opposite direction. Each “terrace” is outlined in black, filled in with red on an orange background. Below this design there are three consecutively wider bands in orange, red and orange.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).

Comparison: Same as figure 46. This vessel is also very similar, in form and design, to Tepeu 1 specimens from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 32b4, 72g,k).
FIGURE 54: Bowl with flaring to slightly incurving sides (Scale 1/3)
Illustration: Figure 52.
Form: Bowl with round, medium-thick sides, incurring rim, pointed lip and flat base.
Size: Diameter 12.5cm, height 17cm, thickness 0.6cm.
Surface: Interior unslipped; exterior slipped and painted.
Temper: Small grains of calcite.
Colour: Red and black on orange.
Decoration: Exterior, black band at lip with two thin black bands along upper body and two red bands at mid-body on orange background.
Comparison: Same as figure 46 and other bowls from Burial 1. This vessel also shows marked similarity, in form and decoration, to a Benque Viejo 3b specimen from Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 36e), and Tepeu 1-2 material from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, fig. 7d-k.).

Illustration: Figure 53.
Form: Bowl with round, eggshell to medium-thick sides, incurring rim and rounded or slightly pointed lip. Base form undetermined.
Size: Diameter 14-18cm, height n.d., thickness 0.2-0.7cm.
Surface: Interior generally slipped and painted in rim area only. Exterior slipped and painted, and sometimes polished.
Temper: Small grains of calcite or tuff and calcite.
Paste: Generally cream (7.5YR 8/4) with some light red (2.5YR 6/6) and two specimens (e,f) very dark grey (2.5YR 3/0).
Colour: Light red (10R 6/6, 6/8) to red (10R 4/8, 5/8) and black
FIGURE 55: Bowl with flaring to slightly incurving sides (Scale 2/3)
Decoration: Interior, plain or with rim bands in red, black or orange on orange background. Exterior, rim bands in either black or red above encircling lines or bands in red and black on orange or cream. In some cases lines or bands enclose geometrical designs, motifs or pseudo and/or functional glyphs.


Comparison: Same as figures 46-52. Close parallels are also reported from Chikin Ak Tun Cave (Mason 1928, figs. 2, 7a), and Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, fig. 7d-k), both of Tepeu 1-2 date.

Title: Bowl, flaring to slightly incurving side (3 vessels, 17 sherds). Figures 54-57.

Illustration: Figure 54.

Form: Bowl with flaring, thin sides, rounded lip and flat base.

Size: Diameter 18.5cm, height 9.8cm, thickness 0.4cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior slipped and painted.

Colour: Red and black on orange.

Decoration: Interior, lip black with red band immediately below lip and orange lip on balance of vessel wall. Exterior, lip is black. Vessel wall has two wide red bands enclosing a central band of
FIGURE 56: Bowl with flaring to slightly incurving sides (Scale 2/5)
FIGURE 57: Bowl with flaring to slightly in-curving sides (Scale 3/4)
glyphs. The glyphs are repetitive and are outlined in black on an orange background. The base is orange slipped. **Provenience:** Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).

**Comparison:** This vessel is similar to Saxche Orange Polychrome bowls reported from Tepeu 1-2 contexts at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 35b17, 60a1, 61a,b1, 62), and the Tepejilote Complex at Seibal (Sabloff 1975, figs. 251, 254, 262, 274). Parallels are also reported from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast, 1970, figs. 4, 5 [Tepeu 1-2]), the Tiger Run Complex in the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976, figs. 120j, 121, 129c), and the Pasion Complex at Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971, fig. 50b, Chart 9, 3j). This vessel appears to be a Saxche Orange-Polychrome dating between Tepeu 1-2.

**Illustration:** Figure 55.

**Form:** Bowl with flaring, medium-thick sides, slightly pointed lips and flat base.

**Size:** Diameter 21cm, height 9.3cm, thickness 0.5cm.

**Surface:** Interior slipped and painted on upper half of vessel. Interior slipped and painted.

**Colour:** Red and black on orange.

**Decoration:** Interior, lip black above two encircling bands in red and orange. Exterior, black band extending from lip to center of vessel enclosing “star” designs. The “stars” have a black center enclosed
by an oval red band which is bordered by an orange background. The lower half of the vessel wall is slipped orange.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).

Comparison: Same as figure 54. Vessels of similar form and design are also reported from Tepeu 2 context at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 62a4-5, 63a1).

Illustration: Figure 56.

Form: Bowl (incomplete) with flaring, medium-thick sides, rounded lip and slightly concave base.

Size: Diameter 21.3cm, height 7.3cm, thickness 0.74cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior slipped and painted.

Temper: Minute to small grains of tuff and calcite.

Paste: Soft. Colour is cream (7.5YR 7/4).

Colour: Red and black on cream.

Decoration: Interior, red band along lip above two thin encircling black bands. Center of vessel has a naturalistic motif (avian?) in red on a cream background. Exterior, red band along lip and base with a pair of thin black bands enclosing a central, repetitive design consisting of “brackets” and “size graded lines” attached to “hand-bell” motifs in black. The motifs are separated by red ovals on a cream background.


Comparison: Same as figure 54. Identical vessels are also reported among Benque Viejo Polychromes from Xunantunich (Thompson
FIGURE 58: Stuccoed cylinder vase
1942, fig. 35, [B.V. 3b]) and Vinaceous Tawny Ware material from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, fig. 5o).

**Illustration:** Figure 57.

**Form:** Bowl with flaring to slightly outcurving side and rounded to slightly rounded lip. Base form undetermined.

**Size:** Diameter 18-24.4 cm, height n.d., thickness 0.5-0.8 cm.

**Surface:** Interior and exterior slipped but eroded among tuff tempered material.

**Temper:** Except for one specimen (c) which is calcite and quartz sand, all others are tuff and calcite. Grain size is minute to small.

**Paste:** Soft to hard. Colours range from cream (7.5R 4/8, 5/8) to pale red (10R 6/3).

**Colour:** Red (7.5YR 3/8, 4/6, 4/8), and black (7.5R 2.5/0) on orange (5YR 7/8), or cream (7.5YR 8/4).

**Decoration:** Interior, rim band in red, black or orange above encircling bands or lines in red, black or orange. Exterior, rim band in red, black, orange or cream, followed by bands in one of the above colours. A few specimens (a-c) are decorated with vertical and horizontal black lines, motifs, terraces or pseudo-glyphs.

**Provenience:** Structural fill in Strs. A-1, B-3, C-1, C-2, Level 2.

**Comparison:** Same as figures 54 and 56.
FIGURE 60: Stuccoed cylinder vase
**Title:** Stuccoed Vase (24 sherds from 3 vessels), Figures 58-60.

**Illustration:** Figure 58.

**Form:** Cylindrical vase with vertical, medium-thick sides, slightly thickened rim, rounded lip and base probably flat.

**Size:** Diameter 14cm, height n.d., thickness 0.6cm.

**Surface:** Interior and exterior slipped brown (10R 2.5/2 to 3/2). Exterior stuccoed.

**Temper:** Minute to small grains of calcite.

**Paste:** Hard. Colour is very dark grey (7.5YR 3/0).

**Colour:** Light blue grey (5BG 6/1), weak red (10R 5/3) and red (10R 4/6) on Maya Blue (5BG 7/1) background.

**Decoration:** Interior, plain brown. Exterior, stuccoed; blue grey rim band enclosing what may be a large representation of an owl. The figure has flaming eyebrows in weak red, large oval red eyes, blue grey body on Maya Blue background.

**Provenience:** Str. C-1, Op. 7 (fill within bench in vaulted room).

**Comparison:** Vessels with this decorative technique are extremely rare in the Chiquibul. The closest parallels come from Burial 7 at Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931:314, fig. 15f). This Holmul 5 vase is slightly different in shape and is unslipped but stuccoed. Thompson (1931:284, Plate XL) reports another stuccoed vessel of Holmul 1 date, but the form is markedly different from the Caledonia specimen. Affinities are also present with stuccoes vases (Benque Viejo 3) from Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 25a,b). In the Peten, a number of Tzakol 2-3 and Tepeu 1-2 stuccoed vessels are
reported from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 1, 22) and from the Tulix Complex at Tikal (Ferree 1972). Smith (1955:55 [Volume 1]) also suggests that stuccoes vessels may be associated with external influences deriving from Teotihuacan. The Tikal and Uaxactun material include various forms but none similar to the Caledonia specimen. The closest shape parallel are two dark brown vases from Burial 4 at Caledonia and “black slip” vases from a Holmul 5 burial at Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931:300, fig. 11a). Furthermore, a sample of the pigment he recovered at Eduardo Quiroz Cave was dated to the Terminal Classic (Pendergast 1971:76). These similarities suggest a Tepeu 2-3 date for the Caledonia material, however, the context of this specimen argues for placement in Tepeu 3 of the Early Postclassic.

Illustration: Figure 59 and 60.

Form: Barrel-shaped vase with slightly restricted orifice, medium-thick round or fluted sides, round lips, base flat or flat with hollow vented feet (tripod).

Size: Diameter 12.5cm (fig. 59), 13cm (fig. 60), height n.d., thickness 0.7cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior unslipped but well smoothed. Exterior stuccoed.

Temper: Minute to small grains of calcite and ferrous nodules.

Paste: Hard and red (2.5YR 5/8) in colour.

Colour: Fragments recovered indicate bichrome but it is possible that the vessels may have been polychrome. Figure 59 is Maya Blue
(5BG 7/1) and yellow (2.5y 8/6); figure 60 is Maya Blue and pink (7.5R 6/4).

Decoration: Interior plain. Exterior, has a pair of raised ribs at rim and at base enclosing an incised circumferential band of glyphs, pseudo-glyphs or geometric designs, probably covered by a slip of Maya Blue coloured stucco. Vessel body has oblique or diagonal fluting. Flutes are slipped in yellow or Maya Blue. Vessel rims are either slipped in Maya Blue or pink.


Comparison: Same as figure 58. A Terminal Classic – Early Postclassic vessel, identical in form, colour, decoration and execution of design, is reported from Cubeta Cave (Pendergast 1968:382, fig. 6). Other close parallels are reported from Benque Viejo 3 contexts at Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 25a-c). Similar forms without the stucco slip are also present at Seibal in the Bayal Complex (Toro Gouged-Incised and Islas Gouged-Incised; Sabloff 1975, figs. 366, 392-395). The close similarity with the Cubeta Cave vessel suggests a Terminal Classic – Early Postclassic date for the Caledonia specimens.
FIGURE 61: Bichrome sherds; a, round-side dish, b, flaring-side dish, c, flaring-side bowl
Slipped Bichrome

Title: Dish, round-side, ring base (1 fragment) Figure 61a.

Illustration: Figure 61a.
Form: Dish with rounded, medium-thick sides and ring base. Lip shape undetermined.
Size: Diameter and height n.d., thickness 0.7cm.
Surface: Interior slipped and painted; exterior unslipped but smoothed.
Temper: Small grains of calcite and quartz sand.
Colour: Black (2.5YR 2.5/0) on brown (2.5YR 3/4).
Decoration: Vessel may have had circumferential bands or lines enclosing naturalistic or mythical design at center. The designs are painted in black on a brown background.
Comparison: Same as round side polychrome dishes (See Fig. 37).
Date: Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 2.
Title: Dish, flaring side, flaring rim.

Illustration: Figure 61b.

Form: Flaring medium-thick sides, flaring rim, and pointed lip. Base form undetermined.

Size: Diameter 29.4cm, height n.d., thickness 0.75cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior slipped and painted.

Temper: Tuff, grain size is minute.

Paste: Soft. Colour is very pale brown (10YR 7/4).

Colour: Black (7.5YR 2/0) on red (10R 4/8).

Decoration: Interior, black band along flaring rim. Below rim band the vessel fragment is red but may have been decorated along wall or at center. Exterior, preslipped encircling groove just below lip. A black rim band extends from lip to groove. The rest of the vessel’s exterior may have been uniformly red.


Comparison: Very difficult due to size of specimen. Bichromes in general are extremely rare at Caledonia and other surface sites in the Chiquibul. The shape of this specimen, however, is similar to a fragment of a flanged polychrome dish from Caledonia (Fig. 29e). Parallels also seem to exist with a fragment of a bichrome dish of Tzakol 3 date from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 6a). An Early Classic date (Tzakol 3) seems likely for the Caledonia material.
Title: Bowl, outcurving side (1 fragment) figure 61c.

Illustration: Figure 61c.

Form: Outcurving, medium-thick sides. Base flat but may have had solid columnar feet. Rim shape undetermined.

Size: Diameter at base 16cm, height n.d., thickness 0.75cm.

Surface: Very poorly preserved. Interior may have been slipped red. Exterior is slipped and painted except at base.

Temper: Minute to small grains of tuff and calcite.

Paste: Fairly soft; brownish yellow (10R 6/8).

Colour: Black (7.5YR 2/0) on red (10R 4/8).

Decoration: Two preslipped grooves just above base bordered by two encircling black bands.


Comparison: Very similar to a Tepeu 2 outcurving-side bichrome bowl from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, fig. 8a,b). At other sites examples of this form occur in slipped polychrome types (Pendergast 1970:25). In the Belize Valley they are classified as Benque Viejo Polychrome: Variety Unspecified, and are placed in the Spanish Lookout Ceramic Complex (Gifford 1976). At Xunantunich, Thompson (1942, figs. 35, 39) dates similar material to Benque Viejo 3b, while at Uaxactun they occur in the Tepeu (2) Ceramic Sphere and are classified as Zacatel Cream-Polychrome (Smith 1955, figs. 62, 69a5). A Tepeu 1-2 date is acceptable for the Caledonia specimen.
FIGURE 63: Round-side dish (Scale 3/4)
Slipped Monochrome

**Title:** Dishes, round side (2 vessels, 91 sherds). Figures 62-64.

**Illustration:** Figure 62.

**Form:** Dish, round, medium-thick sides, rounded to tapered lip and concave base.

**Size:** Diameter 23cm, height 7cm, thickness 0.65cm.

**Surface:** Interior and exterior slipped. Colour tends to wear off easily.

**Temper:** Small to medium size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

**Paste:** Moderately hard with grey black (5YR 3/0) core and red (2.5YR 5/8) borders.

**Colour:** Brown (7.5YR 4/6).

**Provenience:** Str. C-2, Burial 4 (tomb).

**Comparison:** Vessels of similar form are very common among Tzakol 2-3 and Tepeu 1 material from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 34). Parallels also exist with a Tepeu 1 monochrome bowl from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, fig. 8j), and Benque Viejo 3a and 3b specimens from Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, figs. 12, 46). The surface treatment of the vessel also appears to be similar to material classified as Sotero Red-brown: Sotero Variety from the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976:210-213). A Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 1 date seems probable for the Caledonia specimen.
FIGURE 64: Round-side dish
Illustration: Figure 63 and 64.

**Form:** Rounded, medium-thick sides with or without slight offset in interior, rounded to pointed lips and concave or ring base.

**Size:** Diameter 24-28cm, height n.d., (fig 63, 6cm), thickness 0.5-0.7cm.

**Surface:** Interior slipped; exterior generally unslipped and smoothed, or slipped in rim area only. Some specimens are fire clouded.

**Temper:** Generally small grains of calcite with ferrous nodules. A few specimens are calcite and tuff.

**Paste:** Soft to moderately hard and either light red (2.5YR 6/6), red (2.5YR 5/8), reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) and dark grey (2.5YR 3/0) in colour.

**Colour:** Generally red (10R 4/6, 6/8). Two specimens (fig. 64b) are black (2.5YR 2.5/0).

**Provenience:** Levels 1-2, Str. A-1, Excav. 58, 61, 64; Str. B-4, Excav. 68; Str. C-1, Ops. 4, 6; Str. C-2, Ops. 2, 4.

**Comparison:** Similar Tepeu 2-3 vessels are reported from Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971, fig. 12k), from Holmul 5 contexts at Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931, figs. 11k, 13f) and from Baking Pot (Bullard and Bullard 1965, fig. 9c-e). At Xunantunich identical specimens date to Benque Viejo 3b and are classified as Red Ware: Simple Silhouette Dishes by Thompson (1942, fig. 30). A Tepeu 2-3 date is probable for the Caledonia material.
FIGURE 65: Dish with flaring to slightly outcurving sides and basal angle
FIGURE 66: Dish with flaring to slightly outcurving sides and basal angle
FIGURE 67: Dish with flaring to slightly outcurving sides and basal angle
Title: Dish, flaring to slightly outcurving side with basal angle (71 sherds), figures 65-67.


Form: Flaring to slightly outcurving, medium-thick sides. Lip generally rounded to slightly pointed or occasionally sloping inward. A few specimens have hollow cylindrical or conical feet (tripod).

Size: Diameter 20-34cm, height n.d., thickness 0.5-0.9cm.

Surface: Some specimens are poorly preserved. Interior and exterior slipped and burnished. Base unslipped.

Temper: Generally tuff or tuff and calcite. Grain size is minute small.

Paste: Soft to moderately hard. Colours include reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6, 8/6) or dark grey core (7.5YR 3/0) with red (2.5YR 5/8) borders.

Colour: Red (2.5YR 4/6, 4/8, 5/6, 5/8).

Decoration: Interior plain. Exterior has single or paired postslipped and postfire, or preslipped encircling lines along rim and base, enclosing vertical, horizontal and zigzag lines or triangles. Some specimens have tool or fingernail impressions along basal break.

Provenience: Level 1 (rarely level 2) on Str. A-1, Excav. 58; Str. B-3, Excav. 68; Str. C-1, Ops. 1 and 7; Str. C-2, Ops. 2 and 3.

Comparison: Similar vessels (dating to Tepeu 2-3) are reported from Actun Balam (Pendergast 1969, fig. 9), and Rio Frio E Caves (Pendergast 1970, figs. 9n-z, 10a-c). At Barton Ramie, very close
FIGURE 69: Z-angle dish
parallels exist with material from the Belize Ceramic Group, specifically Platon Punctuated incised: Platon Variety of the Spanish Lookout Complex (Willey et al. 1965:380, figs. 240-241; Gifford 1976, figs. 163-165). Elsewhere, affinities can also be found with Benque Viejo 3a and 3b redware dishes from Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 15) and Tepeu 2-3, Rosa Punctuated Vessels from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 51). This date is applicable to the Caledonia material.

Title: Dish, Z-angle (46 sherds), figures 68-69.

Illustration: Figures 68-69.
Form: Outflaring to slightly incurving, medium-thick sides, pointed to slightly rounded lip and concave base. Some specimens (fig. 68) have hollow tripod or solid nubbin feet with ring base. Where sides of vessel joins base there is a slight protrusion, giving vessel profile a z-angle.
Size: Diameter 25-31cm, height n.d., thickness 0.6-0.9cm.
Temper: Generally tuff with some specimens tuff and calcite. Grain is minute to small.
Paste: Soft to moderately hard and reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6, 8/4, 8/6) in colour.
Decoration: Interior plain. Exterior has encircling postfire and postslipped or preslipped incised lines below lip and at base. Basal protrusions have postslipped and postfire V-shaped notches probably made with a sharp tool.

Provenience: Level 1 (rarely Level 2) in all excavations and operations except Excav. 63, and Ops. 4, 5, 6 and 8.

Comparison: Notched Z-angle redware dishes, dating to Tepeu 3, are reported from Actun Balam and Rio Frio E Caves (Pendergast 1969, fig. 7g-k; 1970, fig. 10d-g). At Baking Pot (Bullard and Bullard 1965, fig. 10) and Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 47a,b,e,g-j [Benque Viejo 4]), both notched and un-notched varieties occur. At Uaxactun, parallels are also reported from Tepeu 3 contexts, and are classified as Cameron Incised and Tinaja Red (Smith 1955, fig. 51d-l). Specimens from the Belize Valley occur in the Belize Ceramic Group (British Honduras Volcanic Ash) of the Spanish Lookout Complex and are classified as McRae Impressed: McRae Variety (Gifford 1976, fig. 164b,d,f,h). A Tepeu 3 date is acceptable for the Caledonia material.
FIGURE 70: Bowl with deep vertical sides (Scale 3/4)
Title: Bowl, deep vertical side (1 vessel), figure 70.

Illustration: Figure 70.

Form: Bowl with deep, vertical, medium-thick sides, direct rim, rounded lip and concave base.

Size: Diameter 15.8cm, height 12cm, thickness 0.6cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior fully slipped.

Colour: Red.

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb).

Comparison: Parallels dating to Tepeu 1-2 are reported from all the following: Actun Balam, Rio Frio E and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1969, fig. 8a; 1970, fig. 8d; 1971 fig. 11m-0), Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 32, 33b21, 47c1-7), Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971, fig. 38c) and Seibal (Sabloff 1975, fig. 228a). The Caledonia vessel, however, shows greater similarity to the Altar de Sacrificios specimen which is classified as Tinaja Red: Aduana Variety.
FIGURE 71: Bowl with flattened sides and direct rim (Scale 3/4)
Title: Bowl, flattened sides and direct rim (1 vessel), figure 71.

Illustration: Figure 71.

Form: Bowl with thin, flattened sides, direct rim, pointed lip and concave base.

Size: Diameter at rim 15.5cm, at body 19.2cm, height 15.9cm, thickness 0.4cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior slipped and polished.

Temper: Small grains of calcite.

Paste: Medium-hard and red (2.5YR 4/8) in colour.

Colour: Reddish brown (5YR 4/4).

Decoration: Interior plain. The exterior has four indented and flattened ovals along the medial bulge of the vessel. The ovals are bordered by a preslipped incised groove encircling the upper part of the oval but tapering towards the base of the vessel in “teardrop” pattern.

Provenience: Str. C-2, Burial 4 (tomb).
Comparison: No parallel forms are reported in the comparative area. Faint similarities in shape seem to exist with a Tepeu 1 polychrome bowl from Eduardo Quiroz cave (Pendergast 1971, fig. 6g) and a Mac Phase Vessel from Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979, fig. 36b). Although both specimens lack the flattened ovals, the former has painted loop designs rising from the base and enclosing oval elements at mid-body. The only example of a vessel with flattened ovals comes from the Hermitage Complex (principally Billum Brown: Billum Variety [incised]) at Petroglyph Cave (Reents 1980:100-102, fig. 8b). In addition to the four ovals, this specimen is of the same colour and displays similar surface treatment. This ware is also closely related to the Sotero Red-brown: Sotero Variety material from the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976:210-213, fig. 127f). A Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 1 date seems likely for this vessel.
FIGURE 73: Round-side bowl (Scale 3/4)
FIGURE 74: Round-side bowl
Title: Bowl, round-side (1 vessel, 54 sherds), figures 72-74.

Illustration: Figure 72.

Form: Bowl with round, thin sides, slightly thickened rim, slightly pointed lip and concave base.

Size: Diameter 17.9cm, height 10.8cm, thickness 0.48cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior slipped.

Colour: Red.

Decoration: None, although colour of slip varies from one part of vessel to another. The colour range is from red (10R 4/8), to yellow red (2.5YR 5/8), to brown (5YR 4/3).

Provenience: Str. A-1, Burial 1 (tomb)

Comparison: This vessel is much the same as Figure 70 from Caledonia and also shows great similarity to Tinaja Red material for the Chivoy Complex at Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971, fig. 38c, Chart 8, fig. h). In the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976, fig. 138) round-side red bowls occur among Dolphin Head Red material from the Spanish Lookout Complex. The sides of these vessels, however, are more incurving. Elsewhere, parallels are also reported from Tepeu 1-2 contexts at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 32-33) and from the Mac Phase at Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979, figs. 35c, 36f, 37).
FIGURE 75: Round-side bowl with ring base
Illustration: Figures 73-74.

**Form:** Round, medium-thick to thick sides, incurving and thickened at rim. Lip generally rounded or flat, but occasionally pointed, grooved or interior folded. Base flat, rounded or concave.

**Size:** Diameter 15-24cm, height n.d, thickness 0.5-1.0cm.

**Surface:** Interior and exterior generally slipped and smoothed except for exterior base.

**Temper:** Small to medium size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

**Paste:** Soft to moderately hard. Colour ranges from orange (2.5YR 6/6) to red (10R 5/5) with a few specimens having dark grey (2.5YR 4/0) cores with orange or red borders.

**Colour:** Generally red (10R 4/6, 5/6, 4/8, 5/8) and sometimes orange (2.5YR 6/6, 6/8).

**Provenience:** Level 2 (rarely Level 3), in all excavations except Excav. 63, and Ops. 7 and 8.

**Comparison:** Monochrome round-side bowls, dating between Tepeu 2-3, are reported from Actun Balam and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1969, fig. 8a; 1971, figs. 9,10,11). In the Belize Valley, close parallels can also be found with Dolphin Head Red material from the Spanish Lookout Complex (Gifford 1976, fig. 138). Bowls with grooved, flat and interior folded lips are also diagnostic of the Late Spanish Lookout Complex at Barton Ramie (Willey et al. 1965:373; Gifford 1976:243-245).
FIGURE 76: Incised, round-side bowl (Scale 3/4)
FIGURE 77: Incised, round-side bowl (Scale 3/4)
Title: Bowl, round-side and ring base (1 partially reconstructed vessel and 13 sherds), figure 75.

Illustration: Figure 75.

Form: Bowl with thin to medium-thick, round sides, outcurving rim, rounded lip and ring base.

Size: Diameter at rim 15.5cm, height 6.8cm, average thickness 0.48cm.

Surface: Interior slipped with some fire clouding; exterior, unevenly slipped to shoulder and lower body and base unslipped but smoothed.

Temper: Minute to small grains of calcite.

Paste: Moderately hard and red (2.5YR 5/8) in colour.

Colour: Red (2.5YR 4/8).


Comparison: Marked similarities exist with material from Rio Frio A Cave (Mason 1928, fig. 10), Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931, fig. 13j [Holmul 5]), and Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 54 [Benque Viejo 4]). Very close parallels, especially in form and ware, are also present with San Jose 3-4 red-ware incurring bowls (Thompson 1939, fig. 7h-o) and Vaca Falls Red: Vaca Falls Variety material from the Spanish Lookout Complex in the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976, fig. 144). These affinities suggest a Tepeu 2 date for the Caledonia specimen.
FIGURE 78: Round-side bowl with impressed fillets (Scale 2/3)
Title: Bowl, round-side, incised (108 sherds), figures 76-77.

Illustration: Figures 76-77.

Form: Bowl with round, thin to medium-thick sides, incurring rim, flat or rounded lip and flat base.

Size: Diameter 18-22cm, height n.d., thickness 0.4-0.6cm.

Surface: Interior slipped; exterior slipped except at lower base and fire clouded.

Temper: Small grains of calcite.

Paste: Moderately hard. Colours include light red (2.5YR 6/6, 6/8) and dark grey (2.5YR 4/0).

Colour: Light red (2.5YR 6/6) to red (2.5YR 5/6).

Decoration: Postslipped and postfire incised encircling lines or pair of lines enclosing oblique and diagonal lines between lip and shoulder of vessel.

Provenience: Levels 2-3 in Str. A-1, Excav. 58, and 64; Str. C-2, Ops. 2 and 3.

Comparison: In the Peten and Belize Valley, vessels of similar form and decoration date to Tzakol 2-3 and are classified as Lucha Incised (Smith 1955:38-39, 79-84; Adams 1971:43, fig. 32d; Sabloff 1975:110; Gifford 1976:164, fig. 88). Identical specimens also occur in the Manik Complex at Tikal (Culbert 1981, fig. 32, personal communication with P.F. Healy). Parallels in the Chiquibul are rare. Some similarities, however, can be found with Tepeu 3 material from Actun Balam and Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1969, fig. 8e; 1971, fig. 11f). The context of the Caledonia
specimens suggests a Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 1 date and, together with the
cave material, indicate that the decorative technique used on these
vessels perhaps occurs later in the Chiquibul than in the Belize
Valley and the Peten.

Title: Bowl, round-side with impressed fillets (62 sherds), figure 78.

Illustration: Figure 78.

Form: Round, medium-thick to thick sides, incurving rim, rounded
to pointed lip. Base form undetermined but probably convex or flat.
Size: Diameter 18-30cm, height n.d., thickness 0.7-1.0cm.
Surface: Interior slipped and burnished; exterior slipped to shoulder.
Temper: Small grains of calcite and quartz sand.
Paste: Moderately hard; colour uniformly light red (10R 6/8).
Colour: Red (10R 4/6, 5/8).
Decoration: Exterior has finger or fingernail impressed fillets along
shoulder of vessel.
Provenience: Str. A-1, Excav. 58; Str. C-2, Ops. 2-3, Level 2.
FIGURE 80: Bowl with incurving sides and medial break
FIGURE 81: Bowl with incurving sides and medial break
Comparison: Similar vessels from the Belize Valley are classified as Kaway Impressed: Kaway Variety (Gifford 1976, fig. 146). The vessel form also occurs at Actun Balam (Pendergast 1969, fig. 8), and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1971, figs. 9,10,11a-k) but are decorated with stamps and tool impressions. At San Jose parallels are found among San Jose 4-5 red-ware vessels (Thompson 1939, figs. 59, 81), while at Uaxactun they occur in Tepeu 1-2 contexts (Smith 1955, fig. 49). This date seems appropriate for the Caledonia material.

Title: Bowl, round-side with medial ridge and restricted orifice (“crater”). Figure 79, (19 sherds from 2 vessels).

Illustration: Figure 79.
Form: Thin, round sides, incurring rim with medial ridge and restricted orifice. Lip and base form undetermined.
Size: Diameter at body 21.5cm, height n.d., thickness 0.3-0.4cm.
Surface: Interior unslipped; exterior slipped from lip to medial ridge with lower half of vessel well smoothed.
Temper: Minute to small grains of calcite.
Paste: Hard; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6).
Colour: Light red (2.5YR 6/8).
Decoration: Postslipt incised horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines forming geometric patterns between lip and medial ridge.
FIGURE 82: Round-side bowl with markedly incurving rim (Scale 2/3)
FIGURE 83: Round-side bowl with markedly incurving rim
FIGURE 84: Round-side bowl with markedly incurving rim
Comparison: No parallels have been reported from the Chiquibul and the vessel form appears to be very rare at sites within the comparative area. The only similar examples come from San Jose (Thompson 1939, figs. 59, 93) and Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971, figs. 46e, 47b,c). Specimens at the former occur in San Jose 3-4 contexts while at the latter they occur in the Pasion and Chivoy Ceramic Complexes and are classified as Subin Red: Bocul Variety (Adams 1971:22-23). Chronological placement of the Caledonia material is more likely equivalent to the San Jose Specimens (Tepeu 2-3).

Title: Shallow, incurving bowl with medial break (47 sherds), figures 80-81.

Illustration: Figure 80-81.

Form: Shallow bowl with medial break, incurving rim and medium-thick sides. Lip rounded or pointed with flat or ring base.

Size: Diameter 14-18cm, height n.d., thickness 0.5-0.8cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior slipped except for figure 81b which is only slipped along exterior rim.

Temper: Small to medium size grains of calcite and ferrous nodules.

Paste: Moderately hard; light red (10R 6/6, 6/8).

Colour: Red (10R 4/8, 5/8) and rarely black (7.5R 2.5/0).

Decoration: One specimen (fig. 81b) has fingernail impressions on medial break.
FIGURE 85: Round-side bowl with grooved rim (Scale 3/4)
Provenience: Levels 1-2 in Str. A-1, Excav. 58, 62; Str. C-1, Ops. 1, 6; Str. C-2, Ops. 2, 3.

Comparison: Figure 80a is similar in form and slip to Fugitive Black ware from Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, figs. 26, 50), and Mount Maloney Black material from the Spanish Lookout Complex in the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976, fig. 153). The other specimens are markedly similar to Garbutt Creek Red and Vaca Falls Red material from the Spanish Lookout Complex (Gifford 1976:235-238, figs. 140-141, 144,146). Elsewhere, parallels are reported from San Jose 4-5 contexts at San Jose, and Benque Viejo 3b and 4 from Xunantunich (Thompson 1939, fig. 81; 1942, figs. 49a, 50). A Tepeu 2-3 date is acceptable for this material.

Title: Bowl, round-side, markedly incurving rim (56 sherds), figures 82-84.

Illustration: Figures 82-84.

Form: Bowl with medium-thick to thick round sides, markedly incurving at rim. Lip rounded, slightly pointed or sloping inward. Base rounded, convex or flat.

Size: Diameter 18-20cm, height n.d. (one specimen is 18 cm.), thickness 0.5-0.98cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior generally slipped. Smoothing marks visible on both interior and exterior of some specimens and fire clouding is fairly frequent.

Temper: Small to medium size grains of calcite and quartz sand.
FIGURE 86: Bowl with flaring or slightly outcurving sides (Scale 3/4)
**Paste:** Moderately hard to hard; colours range from reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) to light red (2.5Yr 6/6). A few specimens have very dark grey (2.5YR 3/0) cores.

**Colour:** Generally red (2.5YR 5/8) or reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6, 8/6). Some specimens are fire blackened therefore colour difficult to determine.

**Provenience:** Figure 82 comes from Burial 3 in Str. C-2. Other specimens are from Levels 1-2 (rarely 3), all excavation except Ops. 7 and 8.

**Comparison:** Similar material is reported from Tepeu 2-3 contexts at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 49), Rio Frio E and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1970, fig. 11c-j; 1971, figs. 10s-x, 11h). Parallels are also reported from San Jose 4-5 contexts at San Jose and Benque Viejo 3-4 contexts at Xunantunich (Thomson 1939, fig. 71; 1942, fig. 50).
Title: Bowl with round sides and grooved or outcurving rim (36 sherds), figure 85.

Illustration: Figure 85.

Form: Bowl with medium-thick to thick sides generally grooved at rim. Lip flat, slightly rounded or sloping inward.

Size: Diameter 22-27cm, height n.d., thickness 0.7-1.2cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior have a very thin slip which is considerably eroded on some specimens. A few sherds also appear to have been polished.

Temper: Mostly calcite. Specimens d, e and f, however, seem to have a combination of calcite and pumice. Grain size range from small to medium.

Paste: Generally hard. Colours include orange (7.5YR 7/6), very dark grey (d,e,f [7.5YR 3/0]) or strong brown (7.5YR 7/8).

Provenience: Only in Str. C-1, Ops. 4 and 6, Levels 4-6.

Comparison: No parallels are reported from Chiquibul sites. Elsewhere, similarities are mostly affiliated with the Chicanel Ceramic Sphere, specifically Sierra Red (Smith 1955, figs. 16e3, 70a23; Sabloff 1975, figs. 124i,j, 128h) and Aquacate Orange (Gifford 1976, figs. 58-61,63,64, [Floral Park Complex]; Sharer 1978:42, fig. 20). Some similarities also exist with San Jose 1 red-ware, shouldered bowls from San Jose (Thompson 1939, fig. 28). A late Preclassic (A.D. 100-300) date seems likely for the Caledonia material.
FIGURE 87: Bowl with restricted orifice (tecomate)
FIGURE 88: Bowl with restricted orifice (tecomate), (Scale 3/4)
FIGURE 89: Bowl with restricted orifice (tecomate)
Title: Bowls, flaring or slightly outcurving side (22 sherds), figure 86.

Illustration: Figure 86.

Form: Flaring or slightly outcurving, medium-thick to thick sides, rounded or slightly pointed lip with convex or flattened base, occasionally with solid, circular or nubbin feet.

Size: Diameter 18-20cm, height n.d., thickness 0.6-1.0cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior slipped. Base, and feet when present, are generally unslipped except in a few cases where the underside is slipped. Some specimens show extreme weathering.

Temper: Minute to small grains of tuff and calcite.

Paste: Generally soft to moderately hard; colours range from very pale brown (10YR 8/3) to red (2.5YR 3/6).

Colour: Orange (2.5YR 6/8) to red (2.5YR 3/6).

Provenience: Level 1-2, Str. A-1, Excav. 58, 61, 62; Str. C-1, Ops.1, 7; Str. C-2. Ops. 2, 3.

Comparison: Parallels, dating to Tepeu 2, are reported from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, figs. 4,5,8f-I) but are unknown from other sites in the Chiquibul. In the Belize Valley, similar specimens are reported among Dolphin Head Red and Benque Viejo Polychrome material of the Spanish Lookout Complex (Gifford 1976, figs. 138h,i,m,n; 173). The closest parallels, however, exist with Vinaceous-Tawny Ware bowls from Benque Viejo 3b contexts at Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 30).
FIGURE 90: Cylindrical Vase (Scale 4/5)
FIGURE 91: Cylindrical vase
FIGURE 92: Cylindrical vase (Scale 2/3)
Title: Bowl, restricted orifice ("Tecomate"). Figures 87-89 (46 sherds).

Illustration: Figures 87-89.

Form: Round, medium-thick to thick sides, curving sharply inward at rim producing a markedly restricted orifice. Lip pointed, rounded or sloping inward. Base flattened or convex.

Size: Diameter at orifice 8-16cm, height n.d., thickness 0.7-1.8cm.

Surface: Interior unslipped or unevenly slipped and fairly well smoothed just below lip. Exterior fairly well smoothed and slipped except at base.

Temper: Small to medium size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Soft to moderately hard. Colours range from light red (2.5YR 6/8) to red (2.5YR 4/8). Most specimens have dark grey (7.5YR 3/0) or black (7.5R 2.5/0) cores.

Colour: Orange (5YR 6/8), red (2.5YR 5/6), reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4, 5/4) and brown (7.5YR 3/2, 3/4).


Comparison: The only parallel reported from nearby sites is an undated specimen from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, fig. 8e). Elsewhere, close similarities are reported from the Ceh (A.D. 550) and Mac (A.D. 550-600) Phases at Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979, figs. 17q, 37b, 38q-t) and from Moho Caye (McKillop 1980, figs. 16a, 17-18).
FIGURE 93: Tripod/Cylinder vase (Scale 3/4)
This suggests a Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 1 date for this vessel form, however, the contexts of the Caledonia material indicates continuum into Tepeu 3 times.

**Title:** Cylindrical Vase (2 vessels, 36 sherds), figures 90-92.

**Illustration:** Figure 90-92.

**Form:** Vase with vertical, slightly incurving or outcurving, thin to medium-thick sides, rounded to pointed lip and flat base.

**Size:** Diameter 10-15cm, height 17-18.8cm, thickness 0.45-0.7cm.

**Surface:** Interior slipped or slipped to just below rim. Exterior completely slipped or only unslipped at base. Some specimens are also well smoothed and probably polished (figs. 90-91).

**Temper:** Small grains of calcite.

**Paste:** Mostly reddish yellow (5YR 7/6, 7/8) with some dark grey (7.5YR 3/0) or black (7.5R 2.5/0) and soft to moderately hard.

**Colour:** Brown (5YR 5/6), red (7.5R 4/8) and orange (10R 6/6, 6/8).

**Provenience:** Complete vessels (figs. 90-91) are from Burial 4 in Str. C-2. Other specimens come from level 2-3 in all excavations except Ops. 1 and 7, and Excav. 63.

**Comparison:** In the Belize Valley, vessels identical to figures 90-91 occur in the Tiger Run Complex (principally Sotero Red-Brown: Sotero Variety; Gifford 1976:210-212). In the Chiquibul close parallels, dating between Tepeu 1-2, are reported from Tzimin Kax
FIGURE 94: Incised cylinder vase
FIGURE 95: Incised cylinder vase
FIGURE 96: Incised cylinder vase
(Thompson 1931, figs. 11a-c, 13a-c) and Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971, fig. 11o).

Elsewhere, similar specimens are reported from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 49b2-3) and from the Mac and Kankin Phases at Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979, figs. 41n, 42d). Red and orange slipped vases also occur in Tepeu 2-3 contexts at Actun Balam and Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1969, fig. 6a-c; 1971, fig. 13a-b). Parallels can also be found with English red and Xanthine orange material (Tepeu 3) from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 49b1-3, 68a6-8). A Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 3 range seems applicable to the Caledonia material.

**Title:** Vase, Tripod/Cylinder (1 vessel, 3 sherds), figure 93.

**Illustration:** Figure 93.

**Form:** Vase with vertical, medium-thick sides, flattened lip, flat base with tripod feet.

**Size:** Diameter 15.6cm, height from base to rim 22.1cm, from feet to rim 23.5cm, thickness 0.5cm.

**Surface:** Interior slipped and burnished; exterior slipped and burnished with some fire clouding along sides.

**Temper:** Small calcite grains.

**Paste:** Moderately hard and uniformly red (10R 4/8).

**Colour:** Orange (5YR 5/6).
Decoration: Interior, plain. Exterior, raised ribs with prefire grooved or incised lines encircling vessel just below rim and above base.

Appendages: Three solid nubbin feet.


Comparison: Identical vessels are reported from Actun Balam Cave (Pendergast 1969, fig. 6c) and Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971, fig. 12o). At Xunantunich, tripod vases lacking the grooved rib occur in Benque Viejo 4 contexts (Thompson 1942, fig. 49c), while at Uaxactun similar vases lack tripod feet (Smith 1955, fig. 43a). It is possible that vessels combining both attributes (tripod feet and decoration) may be a Chiquibul variety. A Tepeu 1-2 date is likely for the Caledonia specimens.

Title: Vase, Cylindrical/Incised (43 sherds), figures 94-96.

Illustration: Figures 94-96.

Form: Vertical, slightly incurving or outcurving, thin to medium-thick sides, flat to slightly pointed lip and flat base.

Size: Diameter 10-15cm, height n.d., thickness 0.4-0.7cm.

Surface: Interior slipped or unslipped; exterior slipped except at base.

Temper: Generally calcite or calcite and quartz sand. Grain size is small to medium.

Paste: Generally hard and red (2.5YR 4/6, 5/6, 4/8, 5/8). Some specimens have dark grey (2.5YR 3/0) cores with red borders.
FIGURE 97: Fluted cylinder vase
Colour: Red (2.5YR 4/6-5/8), orange (5YR 6/8), brown (10R 3/3) or black (2.5YR 2.5/0).

Decoration: Plain interior; exterior has preslipped incised encircling lines at rim and base enclosing horizontal, vertical and oblique lines forming simple, triangular and rectangular designs. On some specimens encircling lines enclose incised or roller-stamped glyphs or glyphic designs.

Provenience: Levels 1-2, Str. A-1, Excav. 58, 61-62; Str. B-4, Excav. 68; Str. C-1, Op. 4; Str. C-2, Ops. 2, 3 and 5.

Comparison: Similar material, dating to Tepeu 2-3, is reported from Actun Balam and Rio Frio E Caves (Pendergast 1969, fig. 6a-d; 1970, fig. 101), and from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 43). At Xunantunich, parallels are also reported from Benque Viejo 4 contexts (Thompson 1942, fig. 19).

Title: Fluted Cylinder Vase (22 sherds), figure 97.

Illustration: Figure 97.

Form: Vertical, slightly incurring or outcurving, thin to medium-thick sides. Lip slightly pointed or rounded and flat base.

Size: Diameter 10-15cm, height n.d., thickness 0.4-0.6cm.

Surface: Interior generally slipped (except e). Exterior slipped, some specimens fire clouded at base (specifically e).

Temper: Small grains of tuff and calcite.
FIGURE 98: Barrel-shaped vase
FIGURE 99: Vase; a, barrel-shaped, b, slabfeet, tripod/cylinder
Paste: Soft to moderately hard. Colours include yellow (buff [10YR 8/6]), orange (5YR 6/8) and dark grey (5YR 3/2).

Colour: Red (10R 5/8), reddish brown (5YR 5/3), brown (10R 3/3), orange (2.5YR 6/6) and black (2.5YR 2.5/0).

Decoration: All specimens fluted. Fluting is either vertical, horizontal or oblique. On some specimens, flutes are separated by preslipped lines or grooves and bordered by horizontal raised ribs, or grooves.

Provenience: Levels 1-2 in all excavations except Excav. 63, Ops. 4, 5 and 8.

Comparison: In the Chiquibul similar material, dating between Tepeu 2-3, is reported from Actun Balam, Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1969, fig. 6; 1971, fig. 11n), and Caracol (Walsh 1985, personal communication), and from Holmul 5 contexts at Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931, figs. 11b, 15b). At Xunantunich, Thompson (1942, figs. 19,22) reports specimens from Benque Viejo 3b-4 contexts while at Uaxactun parallels are found in Tepeu 1-3 contexts (Smith 1955, figs. 42-43). A few specimens (a) closely resemble Silk Grass fluted material from Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971, figs. 35g, 36c) and the Tiger Run Complex in the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965, fig. 120). Others (specifically e), are identical to Gallinero Fluted: Gallinero Variety material from the Belize Ceramic Group in the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976:262, fig. 166a-d,g,h). The Caledonia specimens probably range from Tzakol 3 to Tepeu 3.
Title: Barrel-shaped or Insloped Vase (14 sherds), figures 98 and 99a.

Illustration: Figures 98-99a.

Form: Barrel-shaped vase with insloping or incurving, thin to medium-thick sides, flat, rounded or slightly pointed lip and ring or pedestal base.

Size: Diameter at rim 7-10cm, height n.d., thickness 0.45-0.6cm.

Surface: Interior is generally unslipped and smoothed or slipped only just below lip. Exterior slipped but generally poorly preserved.

Temper: Minute to small grains of tuff and calcite.

Paste: Finely textured and moderately soft. Colour is uniformly (“buff”?) orange (5YR 6-6-7/6).


Decoration: Figure 98a-b have a pair of preslipped encircling incised lines below rim and vertical lines on body. Lines enclose or border oval impressions. The impressions are either in groups of three or singularly spaced between lines at rim.

Provenience: Level 1 in Str. B-3, Excav. 68; Str. C-1, Op. 6; Str. C-2, Ops. 2,3.

Comparison: This vessel form is unreported in the Chiquibul. Parallels, however, are reported from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, fig 11a), among San Jose 5 redware from San Jose (Thompson 1939, fig. 79, Plate 21e) and Benque Viejo 3-4 material from Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 22). In the Peten, similarities are most evident with Altar Orange material from the
Jimba Complex at Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971, fig. 66h,p), while in the Belize Valley parallels are closest with Duck Run Incised specimens from the Spanish Lookout (late facet) Complex (Gifford 1976, fig. 148c). A Terminal Classic date is likely for the Caledonia vases.

Title: Slab Feet, Tripod/Cylinder Vase (1 sherd), figure 99b.

Illustration: Figure 99b.

Form: Slightly outcurving, medium-thick sides, flat base with hollow vented slab feet. Lip form undetermined.

Size: Diameter at base 14-16cm, height n.d., thickness 0.5cm.

Surface: Exterior and interior slipped and smoothed (and probably polished).

Temper: Small grains of calcite.


Colour: Interior and exterior black (5YR 2.5/0).

Appendages: Hollow vented slab feet.

FIGURE 100: Modeled-Carved vase
Comparison: Blackware, slab-footed vases are reported from San Jose 2 contexts at San Jose (Thompson 1939, fig. 43) and among Balanza Black material from the Hermitage Complex in the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976, fig. 86), Ayn Complex at Altar (Adams 1971:24), and Tzakol 3 contexts at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 4f,g,i; 13d,f; 22). Temporal placement for the Caledonia specimen is Tzakol 3.

Title: Vase, Modeled-Carved, (28 sherds from 2 vessels), figure 100.

Illustration: Figure 100.

Form: Barrel-shaped vase with medium-thick and slightly incurving sides, rounded lip and flat base with hollow oven feet

Size: Diameter at rim 10cm, at base 12.7cm, height n.d., thickness 0.5cm.

Surface: Interior slipped to about 8cm below lip; exterior slipped except at base.

Temper: Minute to small grains of tuff, calcite and micaceous minerals.

Paste: Soft; light red (2.5YR 6/8).

Colour: Red (2.5YR 4/8-5/8).

Decoration: Interior, plain. Exterior has modeled bands or raised ribs below rim and above base enclosing what may be a functional glyph band above a complex and artistic panel. The scene on the
panel appears to have been delineated by incising and carving, resulting with the portrayal of the design in relief. The surface of the vessel was then slipped red (or orange). The scene on the panel depicts several individuals in council.

**Provenience:** Str. A-1, Excav. 58, Level 1.

**Comparison:** Modeled-carved vases have a wide distribution, in the Peten and Belize, during the Terminal Classic and Early Post-Classic Periods. They occur at Uaxactun (Smith 1955:194-195, figs. 44,86), Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971:49-50, figs. 67,68), and Seibal (Sabloff 1975:195-203, figs. 384-390) in the Peten; and at San Jose (Thompson 1939:145-148, figs. 83-85), Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 49), Actun Balam (Pendergast 1969, fig. 6e,h), Altun Ha (Graham et al. 1980:165), Footprint and Chanona Caves (Graham et al. 1980, figs. 7,8) and at the Valley of Peace (Awe et al. 1984:1-3) in Belize. Among the principal identifying attributes of this ceramic type are its fine, temperless orange paste and modeled-carved designs. Although the latter characteristic is present among the Belize specimens, the former is absent. Graham et al. (1980) suggests that in view of this and other technological and stylistic differences (see Graham et al. 1980 for a detailed description), the Belize modeled-carved vessels should not be mistaken as actual specimens of Pabellon Modeled-Carved. In view of this it is suggested that henceforth the Belize material should be referred to as Belize Modeled-Carved. A Terminal Classic – Early Postclassic date seems acceptable for the Caledonia material.
FIGURE 101: Modeled cylinder censer (Scale 3/4)
FIGURE 102: Modeled cylinder censer (flanges), (Scale 3/4)
FIGURE 103: Modeled cylinder censer (flanges), (Scale 3/4)
Unslipped Polychrome

Title: Censer: Modeled Cylinder (196 sherds plus 1 partially reconstructed vessel), figures 101-103.

Illustration: Figures 101-103.
Form: Hollow cylinder with vertical, medium-thick to thick sides, slightly outflaring rim and rounded lip.
Size: Diameter 12-16cm, height 30-34cm, thickness 0.6-1.0cm.
Surface: Interior and exterior unslipped but smoothed.
Temper: Small to medium size grains of calcite, quartz sand and ferrous nodules.
Paste: Very crude; generally red (2.5YR 5/8) or with dark grey (5YR 3/2) core and red borders.
Colour: Red (7.5R 4/6), Maya Blue (5BG 7/1) and white.
**Decoration:** Front of vessels are modeled into a face with large rounded eyes, thick eyebrows, crooked projecting nose with nose plugs, circular or square earplugs, crullerlike elements on forehead, thickened projecting lips and tongue sticking out of an open mouth. Many have rings under their eyes. Along the sides, vessels have two projecting flanges (one to a side). Flanges are vertical and decorated only on the front side. Decorations include appliqué beads, geometric designs and curvilinear elements. Most decorative additions, and vessels as a whole, were painted in red, Maya Blue and/or white. The paint erodes very easily thus was very likely applied after the vessel was fired.

**Provenience:** Mostly from Str. A-1, Excav. 58; also from Str. C-1, Op. 7 and Str. C-2 Op. 2 and 3, Level1.

**Comparison:** A complete Holmul 5 specimen is reported from Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931, fig. 14b, Plate XXVII). In the Peten, similar materials occur in the Tepeu Ceramic Sphere and are classified as Pedregal Modeled (Uaxactun, Smith 1955, figs. 31d1-2, 75b3; Altar de Sacrificios, Adams 1971:57, figs. 105e, 106a; Seibal, Sabloff 1975:114-116, figs. 117-125). According to Adams (1971:57) and Sabloff (1975:114-116) the heads depicted on these censers probably represent the sun god. Furthermore, the vessels might have served as chimneys or pot stands for censers. Date: Tepeu 3.
FIGURE 104: Spouted jar (Scale 3/4)
Unslipped or Partially Slipped Monochrome

Title: Spouted Jar (1 fragment), figure 104.

Illustration: Figure 104.

Form: Jar with thin to medium-thick sides, low neck, flaring to outcurving rim and rounded lip. Base for undetermined.

Size: Diameter at rim 12cm, height n.d., thickness 0.5cm.

Surface: Interior is unslipped but very well smoothed at rim. Exterior unslipped and well smoothed.

Temper: Small grains of calcite and ferrous nodules.

Paste: Cream (5YR 6/6) and hard.

Decoration: Two plain, incised, encircling lines at the base of neck, probably attached to diagonal or vertical lines below.

Appendages: Rim spout in the form of a human or monkey with spout opening below face.


Comparison: A spouted vessel of identical form (dating to Tepeu 2-3) is reported from Actun Balam (Pendergast 1969, fig. 5k). Elsewhere within the comparative area, jars with effigy spouts occur in Tepeu 2-3 contexts at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, figs. 24b11-12, 75b7) and are classified as Zacatel Cream-Polychrome and San Julio Modeled (Smith and Gifford, 1966:137-151). The major difference between the Chiquibul vessels and those from Uaxactun is that at the latter, the mouths of the effigies form the spout.
FIGURE 105: Small, outcurving neck jar (Scale 3/4)
Title: Small jar with outcurving neck (2 vessels), figure 105-106.

Illustration: Figure 105.

Form: Rounded, medium-thick sides, lip rounded to square, rounded base and wide mouth.
Size: Diameter at lip 16cm, at mid-body 21.5cm, height 19cm, thickness 0.6cm.
Surface: Interior unslipped but burnished along rim. Exterior is unslipped.
Temper: Small to medium-size grains of calcite and quartz sand.
Paste: Hard and uniformly grey (2.5YR 3/0).
Colour: Weak red (2.5YR 5/2) and fire clouded.
Provenience: Cache 3, Str. C-2, Op. 3.

Comparison: This vessel is very similar in shape to Tepeu 2-3 specimens from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 46b), Rio Frio E and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1970, fig. 10k; 1971, fig. 111). At Xunantunich parallels are also present with Benque Viejo 3-4 material (Thompson 1942, figs. 2-3), while in the Belize Valley similar material are reported from the Spanish Lookout Complex (specifically Cayo Unslipped: Cayo Variety; Gifford 1976, figs. 180-181).

Illustration: Figure 106.

Form: Small jar with sub-globular body, thick sides, outcurving neck, slightly everted lip and slightly concave base.
Size: Diameter at rim 11.2cm, at body 13.5cm, height 13.2cm, thickness 0.85cm.
FIGURE 106: Small, outcurving neck jar
Surface: Interior unslipped; exterior is unslipped but well smoothed with a large fire cloud on the side of the vessel.

Temper: Minute to small grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Colour: Cream to light brown (7.5YR 7/4-8/4).

Provenience: Cache 2, Str. C-2, Level 1.

Comparison: Small jars are not very common in the comparative area. The best parallel is a Tepeu 2 specimen from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, fig. 10m). Similarities also exist with Benque Viejo 3-4 material from Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, figs. 6u, 23), and Tepeu 3 specimens from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 67).

Remark: Due to the difficulties in making adequate intersite comparisons with jar rim sherds, a simple seriation of this material was conducted in the laboratory to ascertain whether this vessel form had undergone any obvious morphological change through time. The analyses consisted of dividing the sherds within each category (outcurving neck, flaring neck and straight neck) according to stratigraphic level.

The study suggested that among the three categories, only the former was truly indicative of some diagnostic change through time. It was noted, for example, that among outcurving neck jars, vessels with short or low necks occurred throughout the entire sequence, but are exclusively found in levels 4 to 6 (Late Preclassic – Late Early Classic). On the other hand, jars with tall outcurving necks occur in the upper three levels. This change in neck height, however, can be faintly detected as early as level 4 (Tzakol 1-2).
FIGURE 107: Outcurving neck jar (Scale 3/4), (Context: Op. 7)
FIGURE 108: Outcurving neck jar (Context: Level 1)
FIGURE 109: Outcurving neck jar (Context: Level 1)
FIGURE 110: Outcurving neck jar (Context: Level 2)
FIGURE 111: Outcurving neck jar (Context: Level 3)
Title: Jars, outcurving neck (212 rim sherds), figures 107-113.

Illustration: Figures 107-111.

Form: Jar with rounded, medium-thick to thick sides, and outcurving neck. Neck height is generally tall and rarely low. Rim is plain or occasionally grooved, lip rounded, pointed, grooved or sloping outward. Base convex.

Size: Diameter at rim 14-24cm, height n.d., thickness 0.6-1.1cm.

Surface: Interior generally slipped at rim only, or unslipped but smoothed. Exterior, sometimes slipped along rim only but generally smoothed and fire clouded.

Temper: Small, medium and large grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Crumbly, moderately hard or hard. Colours include reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6), red (2.5YR 5/8) or either, with black (2.5YR 2.5/0) core.

Colour: Red (10R 4/8) to light red (10R 6/6), orange (5YR 6/6), brown (5YR 5/4), or black (5YR 2.5/1).

Provenience: Structural fill, Levels 1-3 in all excavations except Excav. 63.

Comparison: Partially slipped or unslipped jars with outcurving rims occur between Tzakol 3 and Tepeu 3 at Actun Balam, Rio Frio E and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1969, fig. 9; 1970, figs. 10m-n, 12a; 1971, figs. 13c-q, 14a-k). At San Jose, similar material is also reported from San Jose 5 contexts by Thompson (1939, figs. 76, 93). The provenience of the Caledonia specimens agree with this placement (Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 3).
FIGURE 112: Outcurving neck jar (Context: Level 4)
FIGURE 113: Outcurving neck jar (Context: a-b, Level 5; c-d, Level 6)
Illustration: Figures 112-113.

Form: Rounded, medium-thick to thick sides and outcurving neck. Neck height is generally low. Rim generally plain but sometimes grooved. Lip is rounded, pointed or sloping outward and the base is convex.

Size: Diameter at rim 16-24cm, height n.d., thickness 0.5-1.0cm.

Surface: Same as Figs. 107-111.

Temper: Same as Figs. 107-111.

Paste: Same as Figs. 107-111.

Colour: Same as Figs. 107-111.

Provenience: Levels 4-6 in Strs. C-1 and C-2, Ops. 4,5,6.

Comparison: Jars with low outcurving rims are reported from San Jose 1 contexts at San Jose (Thompson 1939, fig. 33), from the Mount Hope and Floral Park Ceramic Complexes in the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976, figs. 54k,56,57,58a-c.61,62), and from the Chicanel Complex at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 16a-b). Red slipped jars with incised grooving along rim are also represented in Late Preclassic material from Seibal (Laguna Verde Incised; Sabloff 1975, figs. 146-147), Colson Point (Graham 1983, fig. 124b-g) and Caracol (Walsh 1985, personal communication). The provenience of the Caledonia specimens suggest a Late Preclassic to Late Early Classic date.
FIGURE 114: Straight neck jar (Context: a-c, Op. 7; d, Level 1)
FIGURE 115: Straight neck jar (Context: Level 1)
FIGURE 116: Straight neck jar (Scale 3/4), (Context: a-c, Level 2, d-f, Level 3)
FIGURE 117: Straight neck jar (Context: a, Level 4; b-c, Level 5)
Title: Jar, straight neck and outcurving rim (87 rim sherds), figures 114-117.

Illustration: Figure 114-117.

Form: Rounded, medium-thick to thick sides curving inward at neck. Neck straight but generally outcurving at rim. Lip generally rounded or pointed and occasionally flat or flat and grooved. Base convex.

Size: Diameter at rim 15-28cm, height n.d., thickness 0.5-1.1cm.

Surface: Interior sometimes slipped at rim only or unslipped and smoothed. Exterior unslipped or slipped along rim only. Lower body smoothed and often fire clouded.

Temper: Small to medium size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Crumbly to moderately hard. Colour include red (2.5YR 5/8), pale brown (10YR 7/4), reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) or either with black (2.5YR 2.5/0) core.

Decoration: Some specimens have incised encircling lines at the base of neck below which are stamp designs, appliqué or punctuations.

Provenience: Structural fill, Levels 1-5, all excavations.

Comparison: The decorated material bear similarities with specimens (Tepeu 1-3) from Actun Balam and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1969, fig. 9c-f; 1970, fig. 14e-k). Figures 114-116 probably range from Tzakol 3 to Tepeu 3; Figure 117 from Late Preclassic to the early Classic (Tzakol 2).
FIGURE 118: Flaring or slightly outcurving neck jar (Scale 3/4)
(Context: a-b, Op. 7; c-d, Level 1)
FIGURE 119: Flaring or slightly outcurving neck jar (Scale 3/4)

(Context: a, Level 1; b-d, Level 2; e-g, Level 3; h-i, Level 4, j, Levels 5-6)
Title: Jar, flaring to slightly outcurving neck (176 rim sherds), figures 118-119.

Illustration: Figures 118-119.

Form: Rounded, medium-thick to thick sides and flaring to slightly outcurving neck. Lip rounded, pointed or flat and grooved. Base convex.

Size: Diameter at rim 16-30cm, height n.d., thickness 0.6-1.25cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior generally unslipped or slipped at rim only and smoothed.

Temper: Small to large grains of calcite and quartz.

Paste: Crumbly, soft or moderately hard. Colours include red (2/5YR 4/8-5/8), pale brown (10YR 7/4), reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) or either, with black core (2.5YR 2.5/0).

Colour: Orange (5YR 6/6), light red (10R 6/6), red (10R 4/8), brown (5YR 5/4), or black (5YR 2.5/1).

Provenience: Levels 1-6, all excavations.

Comparison: Specimens from levels 1-3 are Late Classic (Tepeu 1-3), while those from levels 4-6 are Terminal Preclassic to Late Early Classic. Parallels with the Late Classic material are reported from Actun Balam, Rio Frio E and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1969, fig. 9; 1970, fig. 10k; 1971, fig. 15), and from Benque Viejo 3-4 contexts at Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 23).
Title: Bowl, round-side, incurving rim (2 vessels, 124 rim sherds), figures 120-122.

Illustration: Figures 120-122.

Form: Bowl with rounded, medium-thick sides, incurving at rim. Lip slightly pointed, rounded or sloping inward. Base rounded or flat.

Size: Diameter at rim 14-22cm, height 13-27cm, thickness 0.7-1.2cm.

Surface: Interior unslipped but generally well smoothed. Exterior is unslipped, generally burnished and smoothed. Brush marks visible on some specimens. Pitting and erosion of surfaces is fairly common.

Temper: Small to medium size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Soft to hard. Colours include red (2.5YR 4/8), pale brown (10YR 7/4) and uniformly grey (fig. 121 [10YR 4/2]).

Colour: Generally same as paste. Figure 121 is weak red brown (2.5YR 5/2).

Provenience: Levels 1-3 all excavations except Excav. 63 and Op. 7. Figure 120 is from Burial 2 and figure 121 is from Cache 2, Op. 2, Str. C-2.

Comparison: Direct parallels with figure 121 are reported from Rio Frio E and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1970, fig. 11c-j; 1971, fig. 9i,k,l). In the Belize Valley, close parallels exist with material classified as Yalbac Smudged Brown: Yalbac Variety from the Spanish Lookout Complex (Gifford 1976, fig. 154).
FIGURE 122: Round-side bowl
The other specimens are similar to Tepeu 1-3 material from Rio Frio E and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1970, fig. 11c-k; 1971, figs. 9i, 14m-n), and Benque Viejo 3 contexts at Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 26). A Late Classic (Tepeu 1-3) date is likely for the Caledonia specimens.

Title: Bowl, round-side, incurving rim with strap handle (8 sherds from 1 vessel), figure 123.

Illustration: Figure 123.

Form: Bowl with round, medium-thick sides, incurving rim and lip flared inwards. Base form undetermined.

Size: Diameter 16.7cm, height n.d., thickness 0.6cm.

Surface: Interior unslipped and poorly smoothed; exterior is fairly well smoothed and could have been slipped (poorly preserved).

Temper: Medium to large grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Hard to crumbly; very pale brown (10YR 7/4-8/4).

Colour: Very pale brown.

Appendages: Two wide strap handles at opposite sides of vessel. Handles have two thumb impressed fillets.

FIGURE 123: Round-side bowl with strap handle (Scale 3/4)
Comparison: Vague similarities exist between this vessel and undated material from Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971, fig. 15f,i,m). Elsewhere, parallels are reported from the Spanish Lookout Complex (specifically Tu-Tu Camp Striated: Tu-Tu Camp Variety) in the Belize Valley (Gifford 1976, fig. 178); Tepeu 3 bowls from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 48c1-2) and San Jose 3-4 material from San Jose (Thompson 1939, fig. 58). A Terminal Classic date is possible for this specimen.

Title: Miniature Bowls (5 complete vessels, 2 partially complete, plus 8 sherds), figure 124.

Illustration: Figure 124.

Form: Miniature bowl with flaring or slightly incurving, medium-thick to thick sides, rounded, pointed or flat lip and flat base.

Size: Diameter 7.5-10.8cm, height 3.5-5.0cm, thickness 0.5-1.0cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior unslipped and carelessly smoothed.

Temper: Small grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Hard and sometimes crumbly. Colours include brown (7.5YR 6/4), reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) or reddish brown (5YR 4/4).

Colour: Same as paste.


Comparison: Parallels are reported from Actun Balam (undated, Pendergast 1969:18-19, fig. 6j), Benque Viejo 3a-b at Xunantunich (Thompson 1942. fig. 7a-e), the Tepeu Complex at Uaxactun
FIGURE 124: Miniature bowls (Scale 3/4)
(Smith 1955, figs. 19c4, 68a6-7) and the Tiger Run Complex in the Belize Valley (Macal Orange Red; Gifford 1976, fig. 212). Temporal placement of the Caledonia specimens is Tepeu 2-3 (Late Classic).

**Title:** Plate, low outflaring side, ring base (1 vessel), figure 125.

**Illustration:** Figure 125.

**Form:** Plate with low outflaring thin sides, flaring rim, lip bevelled outward and ring base.

**Size:** Diameter 41cm, height 3.4cm, thickness 0.35cm.

**Surface:** Interior and exterior unslipped but well smoothed.

**Temper:** Medium-size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

**Paste:** Hard; red (2.5YR 5/8).

**Colour:** Red (10R 4/6-4/8).

**Provenience:** Burial 3 (tomb), Str. C-2.

**Comparison:** No parallel could be found at sites within the local or regional comparative area. The flaring or slightly outcurving sides, however, are similar to a flat-based, monochrome plate of the Ceh Phase at Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979, fig. 10h). Barring these general similarities, it is possible that the Caledonia specimen reflects a local idiosyncrasy or site-specific style. If this is true, this vessel may warrant the establishment of a new type-variety name. Its association with the tomb contents suggests a Tepeu 1 date (Early Late Classic).
FIGURE 125: Low, outflaring side plate (Scale 2/3)
Unslipped Monochrome Censers

Title: Ladle Censer, (4 fragments, 1 handle), figures 126-128a.

Illustration: Figures 126-128a.

Form: Ladle censer, flat base with solid nubbin supports and circular vents. Lip and rim forms undetermined.

Size: Diameter and height undetermined. Average thickness at base 0.8cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior unslipped and uneven. Brush marks visible on interior. exterior base is soot encrusted.

Temper: Medium-size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Hard and sometimes crumbly; red (2.5YR 4/6, 4/8).

Colour: Most are fire clouded but otherwise generally red (2.5YR 4/8-5/8, 4/6-5/6).

Appendages: Solid nubbin supports and hollow handle.

Provenience: Level 1 in Str. B-3, Excav. 68; Str. C-2, Ops. 2,3.

Comparison: The Caledonia ladle censers are the first to be reported in the Chiquibul. In the Yucatan, ladle censers with vented base and solid nubbin feet are common during the Terminal Classic at Becan (Tecolote Composite: Tecolote Variety; Ball 1977, figs. 46-47). In the Peten, similar and contemporaneous forms are classified as Miseria Appliquéd: Hollow Handle Variety and occur at Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 66b2-3), Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971, fig. 101d-e), and Seibal (Sabloff 1975, figs. 337-340). These reports suggest that this vessel form may have been introduced from the
FIGURE 127: Vented ladle censer with rubbin supports (Scale 2/3)
FIGURE 128: Censer; a, ladle; b, vented
Guatemalan Highlands where they occur as early Tzakol 1-3 (Early Classic). Sabloff (1975:179) and Ball (1977:122) also indicate that the introduction and popularity of the ladle censer occurs in the Lowlands during the Terminal Classic. This date is appropriate for the Caledonia specimens.

Title: Vented Censer (1 fragment), figure 128b.

Illustration: Figure 128b.

Form: Censer with flat-vented base and thick sides (fragment too small to reconstruct with any accuracy).

Size: Diameter and height n.d., average thickness 1.0cm.

Surface: Interior and exterior unslipped with brush marks visible.

Temper: Medium-size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Moderately hard; red (2.5YR 4/8-5/8).

Colour: Same as paste.


Comparison: No parallels found in the Chiquibul. Similarities, however, seem to exist with censers from Benque Viejo 3a-4 contexts at Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, figs. 8c,45a). Date: Terminal Classic.
Title: Censer, Spiked-Cone type (1 vessel), figure 129.

Illustration: Figure 129.

Form: Hollow, spiked, conical censer with thick sides tapering to a point and flat lip.

Size: Diameter at base 7.8cm, height 14.5cm, average thickness 0.8cm.

Surface: Interior unslipped; exterior unslipped and fire clouded.

Temper: Small to medium-size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Moderately hard with grey black (5YR 3/1) core and reddish brown (5YR 5/4) exterior.

Colour: Reddish brown.

Decoration: The vessel has 8 spikes and 6 circular vents arranged in 2 columns of 4 spikes and 3 vents along opposite sides of the vessel wall


Comparison: Identical censers are reported from Eznab contexts (Pach Complex A.D. 850-950) at Tikal (Ferree 1972:151-152, fig. 32j). The major difference between the Caledonia and Tikal specimens is that the latter is ash tempered. The only other example of cone-shaped censers (within the comparative area) is a Tzakol 2 specimen from Uaxactun (Smith 1955, fig. 17b9). This vessel, however, lacks spikes and has only one vent. The close parallel with the Tikal vessel suggests a Terminal Classic date. Type affiliation could be a Miseria or Cedral Appliqué (See Adams 1971:53).
FIGURE 129: Spiked-cone censer
Title: Censer, round-side, spiked (11 sherds from 1 vessel), figure 130.

Illustration: Figure 130.

Form: Censer with thick round sides, incurring at rim. Lip is flat and slightly grooved and base probably pedestal.

Size: Diameter (estimated) 30-36cm, height n.d., average thickness 0.9cm.

Surface: Interior unslipped, fairly well smoothed and fire-blackened. Exterior moderately smoothed and fire-blackened.

Temper: Medium-size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Moderately hard and crumbly; grey black (5YR 3/1).

Colour: Yellowish red (5YR 5/6).

Decoration: Small, rectangular appliqué fillets with vertical notches below lip and large appliqué spikes on body.


Comparison: Spiked censers are reported from Tzimin Kax (Holmul 5; Thompson 1931:257), Rio Frio E Cave (Tepeu 3; Pendergast 1970, fig. 12g) and Benque Viejo 4 contexts at Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 45). In the Peten, similar specimens are reported in the Bayal Complex (Late Classic) at Seibal (Miseria Appliquéd; Sabloff 1975, figs. 331-335) and the Boca Complex (Miseria and Cedral Appliquéd) at Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971:53, Chart 10b).
Title: Censer lip, Scored-incised: Strap Handle Variety (1 partially reconstructed vessel and 42 sherds), figure 131.

Illustration: Figure 131.

Form: Pie-tin shaped censer with thick sides, outcurving rim and rounded to slightly pointed lip. On the concave side, the vessel has a handle consisting of two thick coils forming a high loop and joined at center in a cruciform pattern.

Size: Diameter 31.5cm, height from base to handle 8cm, to rim 4.3cm, average thickness 0.9cm.

Surface: Interior unslipped and fire clouded. Exterior unslipped and soot encrusted.

Temper: Small to medium size grains of calcite.

Paste: Moderately hard; light red (10R 6/8).

Colour: Reddish brown (10R 4/6-5/6).

Decoration: Base and sides of vessel is extensively scored with open cross-hatching. Scoring is prefire plain-incised.

Appendages: Strap handle.


Comparison: Two identical specimens have recently been discovered at Actun Tun Kul (Chiquibul region) by the Belize Department of Archaeology. A similar lid is reported from Awe Caves by Digby (1958, fig. 3), while Pendergast reports several vessel fragments from Actun Balam and Eduardo Quiroz Caves (Pendergast 1969:39; 1971:62-63). At the latter sites the lids were dated between Tepeu 2-3. Besides Caledonia, the only other surface
sites to yield similar material are Tzimín Kax and probably Barton Ramie. Thompson (1931:245, fig. 10d) reports finding a complete Holmul 5 specimen plus several vessel fragments similar in description to the Caledonia censer. Gifford (1976:305-307) also reports several comal fragments and a strap handle (among More Force Unslipped: Variety Unspecified, New Town Complex [Post-Classic]) that may be similar to the Caledonia material. The absence of similar forms elsewhere in the comparative area (and their frequency in the Chiquibul) strongly suggests that this lid type may be distinctive of the Chiquibul. It is therefore suggested that future studies employing the type variety system of analysis should refer to these forms as Chiquibul Scored Incised: Strap Handle Variety, while specimens similar to Figures 132-133 should be referred to as Chiquibul Scored Incised: Scored Incised Variety. Date: Terminal Classic – Early Postclassic.

Remark: Pendergast (1969:39) suggests that these lids may have been used along with spiked-decorated censer bowls, such as those reported from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970, fig. 12g) and Caledonia (see fig. 130).
FIGURE 131: Scored-incised censer lid with strap handle (Scale 1/2)
FIGURE 132: Scored-incised censer lid with round sides (Scale 2/3)
FIGURE 133: Scored-incised censer lid with flaring sides (Scale 2/3)
Title: Censer lid, Scored-incised: Pie-tin Variety (2 partially reconstructed vessels plus 16 sherds of a third vessel), figures 132-133.

Illustration: Figure 132-133.

Form: Medium-thick to thick, slightly flaring or rounded sides, flat or rounded base with flat or bevelled outwards. Vessel shape resembles plates with flaring sides or round-side dishes.

Size: Diameter 28-32cm, height 3.5-4cm, average thickness 0.7cm.

Surface: Interior unslipped and fire clouded. Exterior unslipped, blackened and soot encrusted.

Temper: Small to medium-size grains of calcite and quartz sand.

Paste: Hard and crumbly; reddish brown (10R 4/6-5/6).

Colour: Same as paste.

Decoration: Exterior is extensively scored with open cross-hatching.

Provenience: Level 1, Str. A-1, Excav. 61, 62; Str. C-2, Ops. 2, 3.

Comparison: Same as figure 131.

Ceramic Artefacts (4), figures 134-135.

Title: Rectangle or fiche (1), figure 134.

Illustration: Figure 134.

Form: Rectangular sherd with carefully grounded edges. The sherd is from a tuff tempered, red slipped, round-side dish or plate (possible Belize Red).
Size: Length 8.4cm, width 5.0cm, thickness 0.8cm.
Comparison: Similar objects, dating to the Late Classic and made from redware plates, are reported from Uaxactun (Kidder 1947:68-69, fig. 58c), Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:82, fig. 641m), the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965:409, fig. 260b-c) and Seibal (Willey 1978:44, fig. 48a-h). Most specimens from these sites, however, are perforated and both Kidder and Willey believe they might have been used as pendants. Perhaps the unperforated specimens may have also functioned as game pieces. A Late Classic (Tepeu 3) date is acceptable for the Caledonia specimen.

Title: Unperforated Potsherd Disc (1), figure 135a.

Illustration: Figure 135a.
Form: Concave disc made from a potsherd with trimmed and ground edges. The sherd is decorated on one side and appears to have been a fragment of the base of a bichrome or polychrome basal flange dish. Due to poor preservation, the original design is difficult to determine. The sherd is also calcite tempered.
Size: Diameter 5.3cm, thickness 0.7cm.
Comparison: Unperforated potsherd discs are reported from Uaxactun (Kidder 1947:68-69), San Jose (Thompson 1939:153), Xunantunich (Thompson 1942, fig. 55c), Piedras Negras (Coe 1959:70, Plate 58s-x), the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965:406, fig. 260n-v) and Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:78-79, fig. 64). The
FIGURE 135: Pottery discs; a, unperforated; b, partially perforated
chronological placement of the Uaxactun specimens are uncertain while at San Jose, Xunantunich and Altar de Sacrificios they occur in the Early and Late Classic Periods. In the Belize Valley they appear as early as the Protoclassic and are present throughout the Classic Period. The context of the Caledonia specimen suggests placement somewhere between the Protoclassic and Early Classic (Tzakol 1). Willey et al. (1965:406) suggest that these discs may have been used as game pieces but it is also possible that they may have been used as the base for pyrite mirrors.

**Title**: Partially or Incompletely Perforated Disc (2), figure 135b.

**Illustration**: Figure 135b.

**Form**: Thin flat discs with well trimmed and ground sides. The discs are unslipped, partially perforated, calcite tempered and were either specially made and fired or formed from potsherds.

**Size**: Diameter 2.9cm, thickness 2mm.

**Provenience**: Cache 1, Str. A-1, Excav. 61.

**Comparison**: The only reports of partially perforated ceramic discs are a single specimen from Uaxactun (Ricketson and Ricketson 1937, Plate 78b) and another from Piedras Negras (Coe 1959:69, fig. 59b), both of undetermined date. Willey (1978:40-41) suggests that unperforated discs may be unfinished spindle whorls thus it is possible that the Caledonia specimens may have been purposely left unfinished for use as ceremonial objects. The context of the Caledonia specimens suggest a Tepeu 2-3 date.
Non-ceramic Artefacts

Introduction

As indicated earlier, these artefacts were analysed and described according to the methodology used by Willey (1972; 1978) at Altar de Sacrificios and Seibal, and for the Belize Valley material (Willey et al. 1965). The analysis and description of chipped stone artefacts, however, also incorporated the definitions and descriptions provided by Hester (1976).

Initially this group of artefacts was divided on the basis of raw materials used, then subdivided according to form, use and methods of manufacture. The major categories identified include ground stone, chipped stone, bone and shell. The latter was further subdivided into modified and unmodified types and where identification was possible, species and genera names were provided. Identification and modern distribution of shell remains were largely made by Kitty Emery of Trent University while comparative analyses were made by the author and Emery. The major site reports used for artefact comparisons include Uaxactun (Kidder 1947), San Jose (Thompson 1939), Piedras Negras (Coe 1959), the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965), Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972), Seibal (Willey 1978) and Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979; 1982).
Ground Stone

Jade or Jadeite: Figures 136-137a (14).

Title: Tubular (or cylindrical) bead (1).

Illustration: Figure 136a.

Description: Plain, biconically perforated tubular jade bead with straight, highly polished sides and slightly rounded at ends. The colour is dark green mottled with white specks.

Size: Length 6.5cm, thickness 1.2cm.

Provenience: Burial 1 (tomb), Str. A-1.

Comparison: Tubular beads of similar contexts have a wide distribution in the Maya Lowlands. Parallels are reported from Holmul 5 burials at Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931, Plates XXXVII, XLIX 19), and Early to Late Classic contexts at Piedras Negras (Coe 1959, figs. 47d’-e’, 48f’, 491), Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972, figs. 126a-c, 128a-g), Seibal (Willey 1978, fig. 107a-b) and Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979:63, fig. 21f). The ceramic association and context of the Caledonia specimen indicates a Late Early Classic to Early Late Classic (Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 2) date.
FIGURE 136: Miscellaneous jade artefacts, (stippling represents lack of, or poorly preserved, polish)
Title: Inlays or chips (3).

Illustration: Figure 136b.

Description: Tiny flat jade chips, highly polished on one side with duller or unpolished back side. They are dark green on colour and probably formed part of a mosaic.

Size: Average length 4mm, average thickness 1.5mm.

Provenience: Burial 1 (tomb), Str. A-1.

Comparison: Tiny jade inlays are reported from Early and Late Classic contexts at Uaxactun (Kidder 1947:49, figs. 80e, 82nd), and Piedras Negras (Coe 1959, fig. 50a-6). The provenience of the Caledonia specimens suggest a Late Early Classic to Early Late Classic date.

Title: Pebble or “ex-shape” beads (2).

Illustration: Figure 136c.

Description: “Ex-shape” beads with double, front to back, perforations near top and two transverse grooves above center. The front of the beads are well polished and both are dark green in colour.

Size: Length 2.6-2.8cm, width 1.4cm, thickness 0.8-1.1cm.

Provenience: Burial 1 (tomb), Str. A-1.

Comparison: The only parallels found in the comparative area come from Altun Ha, where Pendergast (1979:70, fig. 21b-e) calls them “ex-shape” beads. All the Altun Ha specimens were found within a
tomb (dating to A.D. 550) and formed part of a large necklace. This date may be appropriate for the Caledonia specimens.

**Title:** Irregular and/or subspherical beads (2 complete beads plus 2 fragments).

**Illustration:** Figure 136d-e.

**Description:** Well polished, biconically perforated jade beads with shapes ranging from irregular to symmetrical. Colours include pale green and emerald green.

**Size:** Height 0.85-1.7cm, width 0.48-1.6cm.

**Provenience:** Burial 1 (tomb), Str. A-1.

**Comparison:** Irregular or subspherical beads are very common among Classic Period offerings (in tombs) at Lowland Maya sites. They are reported from Uaxactun (Kidder 1947, figs. 80a-b, d1-3, 6-18) Cahal Pichik (Thompson 1931:277, Plate XXXVI), Piedras Negras (Coe 1959, figs. 47a-b, a’-c’, 48v,a’, 49k-l, 64), the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965:483), Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972, figs. 126e-h, 128k-n), Seibal (Willey 1978, figs. 106, 107c-e) and Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979, fig. 55g; 1982, fig. 35a). The Caledonia specimens are Late Early Classic or Late Classic in date.
Title: “Ear ornaments” or “fillets” (3).

Illustration: Figure 136f-g.

Description: Jade or jadeite button-shaped “ear ornaments” or “fillets” with single (f) of biconically (g) perforation. Figure 136f is light green in colour, well polished and has a deep encircling groove on one side. Figure 136g are a blend of emerald green and light brown in colour, are severely pitted but originally well smoothed. 

Size: Diameter (range) 1.8-2.5cm, average thickness 0.46cm.

Provenience: Burial 3 (tomb), Str. C-2.

Comparison: At Piedras Negras, jade or jadeite objects of similar shape are called “fillets” or “re-used small ear plugs” by Coe (1959:49, figs. 47p-z, 48a-t), while at Altar de Sacrificios Willey (1972:147-148, fig. 128m-n,s) classifies them as “Beads and Ornaments: Subspherical variety, and ear ornaments.” Locally, identical specimens are reported from Holmul 5 contexts at Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931, Plate XLVI). The Caledonia specimens are Late Early Classic to Early Late Classic in date.

Title: Pendant (human face), (1).

Illustration: Figure 137a.

Description: Triangular pendant, tapering from top to bottom with a carved human face wearing a simple headdress. The carving is in low relief and executed in broad and fine shallow lines. Only the front side of the pendant is highly polished. The rear and sides are
FIGURE 137: a, jade pendant; b, limestone beads
smoothed and the colour is light green mottled with whitish specks. The pendant has five biconical perforations. Two at the top of the pendant are drilled from side to rear, while the other three (at either side of the face and below the chin) are from front to side.

**Provenience:** Surface find in looters’ pit on Str. B-3.

**Comparison:** Although no direct parallel was found in the comparative area, pendants depicting human faces are common at Lowland Maya Sites during the Late Classic (Thompson 1931, Plates XXXI 17, XXXII; Kidder 1947, figs. 33-34; Coe 1959:46, fig. 45x,c’; Pendergast 1982, figs. 56,58,59). A Late Classic date is appropriate for the Caledonia pendant.

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**Limestone** (8), Figures 137b, 138a-d, 139.

**Title:** Irregular or subspherical limestone beads (2).

**Illustration:** Figure 137b.

**Description:** Irregular or subspherical limestone beads with biconical perforations. Both beads are well smoothed and may have been originally polished.

**Size:** Height 2.2-3cm, width 1.7-1.85cm, diameter of perforation 0.6cm.

**Provenience:** Cache 1, Str. A-1.

**Comparison:** These beads are similar in form to those of jade and jadeite. Interestingly, however, they appear to be extremely rare in the Peten and Belize Valley. Willey (1972:147) describes one Late Classic Specimen at Seibal, and Hammond (1975:359) mentions
another from Lubaantun. The context of the Caledonia specimen suggests a Late Classic (Tepeu 2-3) date.

**Title:** Spindle whorl (4).

**Illustration:** Figure 138a-d.

**Description:** All four whorls are made of white limestone, are symmetrically finished and hemispherical to biconical in shape. With the exception of specimen a, all have incised decorations. Specimen b has four pairs of short incised vertical lines along the shoulders. Specimen c has two finely incised parallel grooves encircling the whorl at mid-body, while d has two incised grooves enclosing diagonal and oblique incised grooves encircling the whorl.

**Size:** Diameter 2.2-3.5cm, height 1.2-1.6cm.

**Provenience:** Specimens a-b are from Burial 4, Str. C-2. Specimen c is from Burial 1, Str. A-1, and d is from Op. 2, Level 1, Str. C-2.

**Comparison:** Similar limestone spindle whorls are known from Early Late Classic to Terminal Classic contexts at Uaxactun (Kidder 1947:39-40, fig. 22), San Jose (Thompson 1939, fig. 91m,o,p), Piedras Negras (Coe 1959:39, fig. 43a-c), the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965: 487, fig. 291a-d), Actun Balam (Pendergast 1969, fig. 10k-1), Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971, fig. i-j), Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:133), and Seibal (Willey 1978:90, fig. 92a-b). The contexts of the Caledonia whorls suggest that specimens a and b are Early Late Classic, c is Middle Classic and d is Terminal Classic.
FIGURE 138: a-d, miscellaneous spindle whorls; e, waterworn pebble pendant
Title: Ringstones (2).

Illustration: Figure 139.

Description: Large, slightly subspherically shaped stones (made of white limestone) with large biconical perforations. Both were shaped by pecking and grinding, and have a fairly smooth finish.

Size: Average height 8.5cm, diameter (average) 12.0cm, diameter (average) of perforations 5.5cm.


Comparison: A large number of identical specimens of similar contexts are reported from Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:134-137, figs. 115-119) and Seibal (Willey 1978:90-93, fig. 94). At both sites, Willey dates the ringstones to the Late Classic (Tepeu 3) and reports that their function is unknown (Willey 1972:135). Their discovery among architectural debris at the base of Str. C-2, however, suggest that they may have been part of a decorative (stucco frieze) addition to the superstructure of the building. The provenience of the Caledonia material also indicates contemporaneity with the Altar de Sacrificios and Seibal specimens.
FIGURE 139: Ringstones (Scale 1/3)
Unidentified Ground Stone (1), Figure 138e.

**Title:** Waterworn pebble pendant.

**Illustration:** Figure 138e.

**Description:** Fragment of a smoothed, rectangular shaped pendant with flat surfaces, grounded sides and two biconical perforations at either end. The pebble is brown in colour and may be of local sandstone.

**Size:** Length n.d., width 1.55cm, thickness 0.6cm.

**Provenience:** Structural fill in Str. C-2, Op. 3, Level 1 (above stairway).

**Comparison:** According to Willey (1965:490), waterworn pebbles occur in archaeological contexts at Tikal and the Belize Valley and are fairly common throughout the Maya Area. Most examples, however, are generally unmodified. The closest parallel to the Caledonia specimen are pendants (undated) from Rio Frio E Cave (Pendergast 1970:48, Plate 9). The provenience of the Caledonia pendant suggests a Late Classic (Tepeu 3) date.
Granite (9), Figures 140-146.

Title: Metate, “Turtleback” type, (5 fragments).

Illustration: Figures 140-144.

Description: All metate fragments recovered at Caledonia are of the “turtleback” type and fairly large. They are all made of grey or pinkish granite, are rectangular in shape with rounded corners and convex sides and base. The basins are either deeply worn or exhibit little use wear.

Size: Average height 11cm, average width 27cm, length n.d.


Comparison: According to Willey et al. (1965:456) and Willey (1972:115), “turtleback” metates occur as early as the Late Preclassic and continue through the Classic Period in the Belize Valley and the Peten. With the exception of Tikal, a large percentage of the metates, at sites within these two regions, are made of granite and have been found in various contexts. For a more detailed comparison of the “turtleback” metate, the reader should refer to the above reports. The contexts of the Caledonia specimens suggest a Late Classic date.

Title: Mano (4 fragments).

Illustration: Figures 145-146.
FIGURE 140: Turtleback metate fragment (Scale 1/3)
FIGURE 141: Turtleback metate fragment (Scale 1/3)
FIGURE 143: Turtleback metate fragment (Scale 1/3)
FIGURE 144: Turtleback metate fragment (Scale 1/3)
**Description:** Two varieties of manos are represented at Caledonia, the rectangular-thin variety (1, fig. 145b) and the oval variety (3, figs. 145a, 146). Both are made from either pinkish or grey granite and range from highly polished to smooth (depending on the level of use wear present). The manos are also fairly symmetrical and well grounded along the edges and ends.

**Size:** Height 3.5-9.1cm, width 6.6-7.9cm, length n.d.


**Comparison:** A detailed comparative analysis of manos is provided by Willey et al. (1965:462). Briefly, this report states that both the Caledonia varieties have a wide distribution at sites within the Maya lowlands. This distribution spans the entire Classic Period, and in some cases (San Jose for example), they are also present in the Preclassic. The Caledonia specimens are definitely Classic in context.
FIGURE 145: Mano; a, oval variety; b, rectangular-thin variety
(Scale 3/4)
Title: Granite disc (altar or ballcourt marker [1]).

Illustration: None provided.

Description: Very large disc with relatively flat smooth surfaces tapering to well grounded and rounded sides.

Size: Diameter 54.6cm, average thickness 9.4cm.

Provenience: Str. C-2, Burial 3.

Comparison: Plain altars or ballcourt markers, similar in description and size to the Caledonia specimen, have been recovered at Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931:267-269), and Nim Li Punit. At the former site the altars were also made of granite while the Nim Li Punit specimen is of sandstone. At both sites (and Caledonia), these objects dated to the Late Classic.
Chipped Stone

Obsidian (34), Figures 147, 148c-d.

Title: Prepared polyhedral cores (2).

Illustration: Figure 148c-d.
Description: Two complete and “exhausted” polyhedral cores showing conchoidal fractures on their striking platform. Both are cylindrical in cross section and are made of black obsidian.
Size: Length 7-7.7cm, thickness 1.4-1.8cm.
Provenience: Figure 148c is from Cache 1, Str. A-1, and figure 148d is from Burial 3, Str. C-2.
Comparison: Obsidian cores are reported from Preclassic to Late Classic contexts at Uaxactun (Kidder 1947, fig. 68d3), Piedras Negras (Coe 1959, figs. 21q, 22q, 37f-i, Plate 37k-l), and the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965, fig. 279b-c). At both of the Peten sites they were generally recovered from burials and caches while those from the Belize Valley all came from refuse deposits. Both Caledonia specimens are from Late Classic contexts and reflect the Peten pattern of deposition rather than the one of Belize Valley.

Title: Prismatic flake blades (32).

Illustration: Figure 147.
Description: The Caledonia prismatic flake blades are made from black, grey and banded grey black obsidian. Using Kidder’s
FIGURE 147: Prismatic, obsidian flake blades (Scale 3/4)
FIGURE 148: a, bipoint with paired projections; b, biface projectile point; c-d, prepared polyhedral (obsidian) cores
(1947:14-16) and subsequently Willey’s (1972) division of flake blades, there are two types represented: ceremonial and utilitarian. The former are strictly from burial and cache contexts and generally show little or no evidence of “use nicking.” Conversely, the utilitarian variety generally bear evidence of use wear and are mostly from structural fill.

**Size:** Complete specimens are 7.0-9.0cm in length, with an average width and thickness of 1.5cm and 1.5mm respectively.

**Provenience:** Burial 1, Str. A-1 (a-b); Cache 4, Str. C-2 (c); Op. 4, Level 4, Str. C-1 (d); Op.3, Level 2, Str. C-2 (e); Burial 4, Str. C-2 (f); Excav. 61,62, and Ops. 5,6 Levels 1-4 (other specimens not illustrated).

**Comparison:** According to Willey et al. (1965:445) obsidian prismatic blades are widespread in the southern Maya Lowlands and, although introduced in Preclassic, are particularly common in the Classic Period. Their distribution and contexts at Caledonia indicates greater frequency in the Late Classic but they are definitely present in the Early Classic (Tzakol 1) and may even occur in the Late Preclassic or Protoclassic.

**Chert** (14), Figures 148a-b, 149-151.

**Eccentrics** (8).

**Title:** Crescents: plain variety (2), serrated variety (1).

**Illustration:** Figure 149a-c.
Description: Crescent or C-shaped eccentrics with plain or serrated edges. All are made from greyish white chert and are well chipped. The notches on the serrated specimens are irregular.

Size: Average height 5.7cm, average width 5.8cm, average thickness 0.7cm.


Comparison: With the exception of Uaxactun (Kidder 1947:17), most eccentrics (and eccentrics in general) in the comparative area (including Caledonia) are from Late Classic contexts. They occur at San Jose (Thompson 1939, Plate 24b4), Piedras Negras (Coe 1959, figs. 8a,k-l, 11j-l, 12s, 13n-o, 14d,h-i), Barton Ramie (Willey et al. 1965, figs. 268, 280), Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:166-167), Altun Ha (Pendergast 1979, figs. 23c; 1982, figs. 36o, 37d, 53g, 83h) and the Ponces Site (Awe et al. n.d.).

Title: Cross (1).

Illustration: Figure 149d.

Description: Coe (1959:19) describes eccentric crosses (similar to the Caledonia specimen) as “deeply notched cruciform disks.” The Caledonia specimen is finely chipped, and made from greyish white chert.

Size: Height 6.4cm, width 6.45cm, thickness 0.8cm.


Comparison: Coe (1959:19) notes that crosses are rarer in distribution than other eccentric forms. He reports the occurrence of specimens at Xunantunich and Pusilha, but offers no chronological
placement. Elsewhere, crosses are reported from Late Classic Contexts in the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965, fig. 268), Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:186, fig. 162f) and the Ponces Site (Awe et al. n.d.). The context and association of the Caledonia cross agrees with this placement.

**Title:** Double crescent (1).

**Illustration:** Figure 149e.

**Description:** Willey (1972:189) describes double crescents as two “Capital C’s back to back.” The Caledonia specimen is made of greyish white chert, is well chipped and appears to be partially serrated on one side. The notches forming the crescents have a narrow opening that widens towards the middle.

**Size:** Height 5.8cm, width 6.2cm, thickness 0.75cm.

**Provenience:** Burial 3, Str. C-2.

**Comparison:** In the comparative area double crescents appear to be more rare than single crescents. They are reported from Late Classic contexts at San Jose (Thompson 1939, Plate 24b5), Piedras Negras (Coe 1959:18, figs. 5c, 10d,n,r, 11m-n, 15q, 17c-d, 19c), Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:189) and the Ponces Site (Awe et al. n.d.). Coe (1959:18) also refers to specimens from Xunantunich and Baking Pot. Like the Caledonia crescent, specimens at both sites are Late Classic in contexts.
Title: Rings (1).

Illustration: Figure 150a.

Description: Circular or disc-shaped eccentric that is centrally perforated. The ring is made of greyish white chert and is well chipped.

Size: Height 6.2cm, width 6.5cm, thickness 0.7cm.


Comparison: Coe (1959:17) provides a detailed comparison of this eccentric form in the Maya Lowlands. He reports their occurrence (in Classic, especially Late Classic times) at Piedras Negras, Pusilha, Xunantunich and Tikal. Elsewhere they appear in similar contexts in the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965, figs. 268, 280), Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:184) and the Ponces Site (Awe et al. n.d.).

Title: Serrated Celt (1).

Illustration: Figure 150b.

Description: Celt-shaped eccentric with serrated or shallow notched sides, made from greyish white chert.

Size: Length 6.8cm, width 3.7cm, thickness 0.5cm.


Comparison: Similar specimens, labelled “unclassified,” are reported from Classic contexts at Piedras Negras (Coe 1959:21, figs. 9p, 13q). This form may also be related to “Notched Double-Pointed Blades” from Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:196-198, figs. 180a-
FIGURE 150: Eccentrics and projectile points from Burial 3, Str. C-2 (Scale 3/4)
The closest parallel, however, is a chopper or celt from Seibal which appears to be serrated (Willey 1978, fig. 116). The Caledonia specimen is Late Classic in context.

**Title:** Bipoint with paired side projections (1).

**Illustration:** Figure 148a.

**Description:** Possibly a fragment of a bipointed blade or knife with paired side projections on either side of blade, made of greyish white chert.

**Size:** Length n.d., width (including projections) 5.1cm, thickness 0.85cm.

**Provenience:** Op. 5, Level 2, Str. C-2.

**Comparison:** Identical specimens are reported from Late Classic contexts at Barton Ramie (Willey et al. 1965, figs. 268, 280). At Colha, however, Potter (1982:107, fig. 6) reports a Late Preclassic specimen. The Caledonia specimen is more likely Early Late Classic (Tepeu 1-2).
Bifaces Projectile Points or Knives (6), Figures 148b, 150c-d, 151.

**Title:** Broad tapered stem, long blade (3).

**Illustration:** Figures 148b, 150c-d.

**Description:** Made from greyish white chert these projectile points are well chipped and show little or no evidence of use wear. The blades are relatively long and taper to a point. Stems are almost as wide as the blade and taper from shoulder to proximal end.

**Size:** Length 10.3-15.2cm, width (at widest point) 3.6-5.0cm, thickness 0.6-0.7cm.

**Provenience:** Figure 148b is a surface find. Figures 150c-d are from Burial 3, Str. C-2.

**Comparison:** Willey et al. (1965:422-423) provides a comprehensive comparison of this projectile point type. They report that these points are generally Late Classic in date even though they do occur in the Late Preclassic and Early Classic Periods. At Barton Ramie (Willey et al. 1965:422, figs. 261,262b-h), Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971, fig. 16a), Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:163-165) and Chan Chen (Andresen 1976, fig. 110a) they are also Late Classic in date. This placement is acceptable for the Caledonia material.
Title: Narrow tapered stem, long blade (2).

Illustration: Figure 151a-b.

Description: Willey (1972:166) describes these projectile points as “elongated ovate-triangular” in form, with sloping to squared shoulders and relatively short tapering stems. Chert colour is light brown and brown. Little use wear evident.

Size: Length 6.0-7.2cm, width 2.8-3.0cm, thickness 0.7-0.75cm.

Provenience: Figure 151a is from Excav. 62, Str. A-1; figure 151b is from Excav. 68, Str. B-3; both from structural fill.

Comparison: Willey (1972:166, figs. 146-148) reports that this projectile point type was the second most commonly found at Altar de Sacrificios. Furthermore, with the exception of one specimen, all were from Late Classic or Terminal Classic contexts. Elsewhere they are reported from Piedras Negras (Coe 1959, fig. 3k-n) and Seibal (Willey 1978:109). These, like the Caledonia specimen, are also Late Classic in date.
FIGURE 151: a-b, projectile points; Narrow tapered stem: long blade variety; c, Laurel leaf blade
Title: Laurel-leaf blade, small (1).

Illustration: Figure 151c.

Description: Small bipointed ovate blade, very finely chipped (probably by pressure flaking), of honey coloured chert. The specimen has several fractures but these may be production fractures rather than use wear.

Size: Estimated length 8.5-9.0cm, width 3.5cm, thickness 0.5cm.


Comparison: Willey et al. (1965:445-446) provide a detailed comparative analysis for laurel-leaf blades, and categorize them as “ceremonial implements of flint.” They also mention that although this blade is reported from Early Classic contexts at Uaxactun, those from Piedras Negras, Tikal, San Jose and Barton Ramie are all Late Classic. This placement is supported by contemporaneous specimens from Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:169-170) and Seibal (Willey 1978:111-112). That date is also acceptable for the Caledonia specimen.
Bone (6), Figures 152a-b, 153b-d.

Title: Awl (4).

Illustration: Figures 152a-b, 153b-d.
Description: At least three of the awls are made from deer or brocket ulna (or some other long bone) and one (fig. 152a) is made from deer antler. The four awls are pointed and taper from proximal to distal end.
Size: Lengths range from 3.5-8.3cm, average thickness is 0.9cm.
Provenience: Figures 152a-b and 153a are from Burial 4, Str. C-2; figure 153d is from Str. C-1, Op. 4, Level 4.
Comparison: Awls made from deer bone are reported from Actun Balam and Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1969:55, fig. 10b-d; 1971:71). Elsewhere, Willey et al. (1965:495) and Willey (1972:229-233) compares and describes the occurrence and distribution of awls in the Belize Valley and the Peten. In both regions they occur from Preclassic to Postclassic times and are generally made from deer bones. The context of the Caledonia specimens suggest an Early to Late Classic date.

Title: Needle (2 fragments).

Illustration: Figure 153b-c.
Description: Both needle fragments are made from slivers of long bone (species n.d.), are cylindrical in cross section and are highly
FIGURE 152: a-b, bone awls; b, shell pendant
polished. Figure 153b appears to have been broken at the lower end of the eye of the needle.

**Size:** length n.d., thickness 2-3mm.

**Provenience:** Burial 4, Str. C-2.

**Comparison:** Willey et al. (1965:500) provide a detailed comparative analysis for bone needles in the Belize Valley and the Peten. In both regions their chronological distribution is most frequent in the Classic Period, specifically the Late Classic. The context of the Caledonia specimens agree with this placement.
Modified Shell (41), Figures 152c, 153e-j.

Family: STROMBIDAE (conchs).

Strombus sp.
Modern distribution: Species identification difficult due to the extreme modification of this shell.

Title: Star (1).

Illustration: Figure 152c.
Description: Probably a discoidal, six-pointed star with scalloped rim and central perforation.
Size: Diameter 4.2cm, thickness 3mm.
Comparison: Thompson (1931:291, Plate XLVII) reports a six-pointed star (Holmul 5), very similar in shape though more elaborately decorated, from Tzimin Kax. Parallels also exist with a six-pointed star, presumably from a conch wall and dated to the Bayal (Late Classic) Complex at Seibal (Willey 1978:165, fig. 167). The Caledonia specimen is Late Classic in context.

Strombus sp. ?
Remark: Modern distribution and species difficult to determine and even genera is questionable. On the basis of colour range, however, they may also be Spondylus sp. whose shells are typically brilliantly coloured.
FIGURE 153: a-d, awls; b-c, bone needles; e-f, miscellaneous shell artefacts
Title: Disc bead (32).

Illustration: Figure 153e.

Description: These are very small, roughly biconically and centrally drilled, flat or convex discs which formed a necklace. Often the surfaces are pitted and eroded. Colours range from white to brilliant rose red.

Size: Diameter range 7-9mm, average thickness 1-4mm, perforation diameter 1-4mm.

Provenience: Burial 1, Str. A-1.

Comparison: Necklaces made from similar shells are reported from Early Classic burials at Uaxactun (Kidder 1947:62, figs. 490a) and Piedras Negras (Coe 1959:58, fig. 52d’). The Caledonia specimens are Late Early Classic (Tzakol 3) to Early Late Classic (Tepeu 2) in date.

Strombus sp.

Title: Mosaic inlays (4).

Illustration: Figure 153f.

Description: Four flat and very highly polished quadrangles of the pearly inner surface of the conch shell.

Size: Length 2.4-3.95cm, width 1.5-2.2cm, thickness 1.5mm.


Comparison: Identical specimens, forming part of a composite jade and shell mural (or mosaic), are reported from Uaxactun (Kidder
1947, figs. 85b3-4; 82d). The Caledonia material is Early Late Classic (Tepeu 1) in context.

**Strombus gigas** (Linne).
Modern distribution: This is the common conch along the Caribbean coast, from Turneffe Islands to Isla Contoy (Quintana Roo). Unreported on the north and west coasts; prevalent on offshore atolls (Andrews 1969).

**Title:** Disc (1).

**Illustration:** Figure 153h.
**Description:** Irregularly shaped disc of even thickness, highly polished and partially perforated on inner surface.
**Size:** Diameter 2.2cm, thickness 0.3cm.
**Provenience:** Cache 1, Excav. 61, Plaza A, at the base of Str. A-1.
**Comparison:** Similar discs are reported from Classic contexts at Uaxactun (Kidder 1947:61) and Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971, fig. 171-p). At Barton Ramie, similar specimens date from Classic to Postclassic times (Willey et al. 1965:256). The Caledonia specimen is more likely Late Classic in date.
**Class:** PELECYPODA.

**Family:** SPONDYLIDAE (thorny oysters).

*Spondylus princeps* (Broderip).
Modern distribution: Pacific Ocean.

**Title:** Disc (1)

**Illustration:** Figure 153i.

**Description:** Irregularly shaped disc with two partial perforations along upper margin. The front of the disc is slightly polished but the back remains naturally striated.

**Size:** Diameter 2.1cm, thickness 2mm.

**Provenience:** Cache 1, Excav. 61, Plaza A at the base of Str. A-1.

**Comparison:** Form distribution similar to figure 153h. Shell/species distribution: Frequent in Classic tombs and caches at Copan (Longyear 1952:110, fig. 94). At Uaxactun, 42 modified and unmodified specimens are reported from Early and Late Classic tombs and caches (Kidder 1947:61-62, fig. 82a) while at Piedras Negras, Coe (1959:55-57, fig. 52c’) reports 12 specimens from similar contexts and date. The Caledonia specimen is Late Classic in context.
Class: GASTROPODA.

Family: OLIVIDAE (olive shells).

Olivella sp. (reticularis ?), (Lamark).

Title: Tinkler (1).

Illustration: Figure 153g.
Description: Tinklers are reported to have been used as adornment on clothing and in the hair, but were also used as beads on necklaces and bracelets. The Caledonia specimen has a broken spire and two perforations at mid-body. It also appears to have been highly polished.
Size: Height 2.0cm, maximum width 1.0cm.
Comparison: Tinklers have a wide distribution in the Maya Lowlands. They are reported from Classic contexts at Uaxactun (Kidder 1947:63, fig. 82b), Piedras Negras (Coe 1959:58, fig. 52), the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965:507-508, figs. 309a-b, 310g,j)). The Caledonia specimen is contemporaneous with the above.
Unidentified, possibly *Jeneria postulata* (?).

**Title:** Shell pendant (1).

**Illustration:** Figure 153j.

**Description:** Bivalve shell which has a natural coppery sheen (still obvious despite considerable erosion in some places). One valve of the shell has been broken to allow complete perforation of the other valve.

**Size:** Height 2.0cm, width 1.4cm.

**Provenience:** Burial 3, Str. C-2.

**Comparison:** Willey (1972:224) reports 39 variously modified examples from Pasion (Late Classic) contexts at Altar de Sacrificios. Like the Caledonia specimen, most of these were recovered from burials and caches. Date: Late Classic.
Unmodified Shells

Class: PELECYPODA.
Family: UNIONIDAE.

*Nephronaias ortmanni* (Frierson) (Freshwater mussel).
Modern distribution: A freshwater bivalve, common to most South and Central American waters. Its preferred habitat seems to be slow, muddy water and silty soils.

Provenience: Str. A-1, excav. 58, 61, Level 1 (frequency – 4); Str. C-1, Op. 4, Level 6 (frequency – 1); Str. C-2., Op. 2, Level 1 (frequency 50); Op. 3, Level 1 (frequency – 3); Op. 5, Level 2 (frequency 14).

Comparison: Modified and unmodified specimens are reported from Preclassic to Terminal Classic times at Barton Ramie (Willey et al. 1965:504,507,526-527, fig. 309l-n) and Classic Period contexts at Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971, fig. 17i-k) and Actun Polbilche (Pendergast 1974:58). Usage at Caledonia ranges from Late Preclassic to Terminal Classic.

Family: OSTREIDAE (Oysters).

*Ostrea frons* (Linne).
Modern distribution: Common on east and north coasts, only from Caye Chapel, Belize, to Punta Palmar, Yucatan. Also on offshore atolls (Andrews 1969).

Comparison: Coe (1959:56, fig. 52) notes a single perforated valve at Piedras Negras. The Caledonia specimens occur in Early Late Classic contexts.

Crassostrea virginica (Gmelin).
Provenience: Str. C-1, Op. 4, Level 3 (frequency 1).
Comparison: Thompson (1939:166, Plate 6, no. 6) reports two unworked specimens in a cache (Early Classic) at San Jose. In the Yucatan, Andrews (1969) also reports specimens from Late Early Classic contexts at Dzibilchaltun and from Formative contexts at Isla Cancun.

Family: STROMBIDAE (conchs).

Strombus sp.
Modern distribution: Because of the fragmentary nature of the remains of this specimen, the species was impossible to determine and the distribution is therefore also unknown. It is likely, however, that this is Strombus gigas (Linne), the common conch along the Caribbean coast.
Comparison: None noted due to fragmentary nature of specimen. Early Late Classic in context.
Class: GASTROPODA  
Family: THROCHIDAE

Cittarium pica (Linne).
Modern Distribution: Very common on the east coast, from Belize to Isla Contoy, Quintana Roo. Unreported from north and west coasts (Andrews 1969).
Comparison: Andrews (1969) reports one unworked specimen from an unstratified deposit at Dzibilchaltun, while at Piedras Negras a single specimen was found in a Late Classic Cache (Coe 1959:55). The Caledonia specimen is from Terminal Classic Context.

Family: AMPULLARIIDAE.

Pomacea flagellata arata (Crosse and Fisher).
Modern Distribution: Widely distributed throughout the Maya Lowlands, this freshwater species inhabits stagnant and slow moving waters.
Comparison: Similar specimens are reported from Formative and Late Early Classic contexts at Dzibilchaltun (Andrews 1969). Elsewhere they occur in Preclassic and Late Classic deposits at Barton Ramie (Willey et al. 1965:526-527, fig. 309r), the Preclassic Period at Tikal (Moholy-Nagy 1978, fig. 1), and from a Late Classic
cache at Piedras Negras (Coe 1959:55). The Caledonia specimens are from Early and Late Classic deposits.

*Pomacea flagellata tristrami* (Crosse and Fisher).
Modern Distribution: Very similar to that of *P. flagellata arata* except that it seems to concentrate in more open bodies of water.
Comparison: At Tikal, 16 unmodified specimens were found in general excavations and 58 in special deposits (Moholy-Nagy 1978, fig. 1). The Caledonia specimens are from Terminal Classic contexts.

Family: THIARIDAE (freshwater snail or “jute”).

*Pachylus (Glyptomelania) glaphyrus* (Morelet).
Modern Distribution: Central American freshwater snail, predominating in fast running streams and rivers.
Provenience: Str. C-1, Op.4, Levels 3 and 6 (frequency – 3 and 9 respectively); Op. 6, Level 4 (frequency – 4); Str. C-2, Op. 2, Level 1 (frequency – 135).
Comparison: Similar species are reported from the Late Preclassic to Late Classic Periods in the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965:526-527), Lubaantun (Hammond 1975:386, fig. 151) and Tikal (Moholy-Nagy 1978:65). The Caledonia specimens occur within the same chronological range.
Class: CRUSTACEA

Gecarcinidae (?) (crayfish or land crab).
Modern Distribution: Fast moving streams and rivers in Central America.
Provenience: Three claws, one from Burial 1 in Str. A-1, the others from Cache in Str. C-2.
Comparison: Crab claws or remains have been reported from a Late Classic burial at San Jose (Thompson 1939:182), a Late Classic cache at Altar de Sacrificios (Willey 1972:242) and from Late Classic contexts at Actun Balam (Pendergast 1969:57). The Caledonia specimens are from similar chronological contexts.
The Caledonia artefact assemblage provides important and interesting information regarding the exploitation of local resources and intraregional exchange and interaction. Basically, this assemblage may be divided into two categories, exotic and non-exotic. The former includes obsidian, jade, marine shells and perhaps some ceramic types, while the latter features such resources as granite, limestone, bone, shell and pottery.

**Exotic Material**

**Obsidian:**

Even though obsidian is very common at Lowland Maya sites there are no local sources in the Maya Mountains of Belize or the Maya Lowlands in general (Hammond 1972). At Caledonia, 34 obsidian artefacts were recovered. These remains included both cores and bladelets and were collected from Preclassic and Classic contexts, but with much greater frequency in the Late Classic Period. Although none of these specimens were submitted for trace element analysis some assumptions may be made by extrapolating source information from the major nearby site of Caracol.

Obsidian remains, analysed by neutron activation and X-ray fluorescence, from that site indicate that both Ixtepeque and El
Chayal obsidian was imported during the Late Preclassic (Walsh 1985). Subsequently, obsidian from Early and Late Classic contexts were all sourced to El Chayal (Walsh 1985). The proximity of Caracol, plus its importance as a major regional center, may very well suggest that the exchange patterns reflected here may have extended to minor centers such as Caledonia. Furthermore, it is also possible that the obsidian recovered at Caledonia may have been imported from both Ixtepeque and El Chayal via Caracol.

**Jade/Jadeite**

With the exception of one specimen, all jade artefacts were recovered from two burials, both of Middle Classic or Early Late Classic contexts. Unlike obsidian, however, there is still considerable debate regarding the sources of jade and jadeite.

One of the earliest reports of jade sources was Foshag and Leslie’s (1955) article on jadeite from Manzanal in Guatemala. This study, plus earlier mineralogical research by Foshag (1954), showed that three types of jade occurred in Guatemala; jadeite pure, diopside and chloromelanite. The studies also indicated two possible sources of jade; one on the banks of the Motagua River near San Cristobal Acasaguastlan, and another near the village of Manzanal in central Guatemala.

Following these reports it was generally assumed that most, if not all, archaeological jade was imported from these geological sources.
This assumption remained acceptable until 1973 when a survey by Hammond and Hazelden (Hammond et al. 1977) negated its validity. Using a combination of analytical techniques they sampled and analysed 20 geological specimens from five localities in the Sierras de las Minas in the Motagua Valley. The results indicated that there were a number of sources in the valley alone. Furthermore, the authors suggested the likelihood of other sources in the central highlands.

Prior to this study, Thompson (1964:27) also reported the occurrence of nephrite and other related minerals (such as jadeite) in south central Belize. Unfortunately this area, which includes the Little Quartz Ridge region of the Maya Mountains and the headwaters of the Bladen River, is practically inaccessible, thus the validity of this source has yet to be verified.

It is therefore difficult to make accurate statements regarding the source or sources of the Caledonia jades. Nonetheless, if jadeite does occur in the Maya Mountains, we may assume that that locale may be the more likely source. Barring this possibility, geographical considerations would argue in favour of the Motagua Valley.
Marine Shell

Since Caledonia is an inland site, all marine shells had to be imported. With the exception of one specimen of Panamic (Pacific) species (*Spondylus princeps*), all other shells are of Caribbean or Atlantic origin. Also of significance is that all marine shells are from Early or Middle Classic contexts. This indicates that the site may have been actively involved in commercial exchange during, and slightly before, the Classic Maya hiatus.

This observation supports Moholy-Nagy’s (1963:81) suggestion that, “With the apparent increase of ceremonial activity during Early Classic times, there seems to have been increased importation and use of marine materials.” She and Feldman (1974:131) also note that Panamic species, specifically *Spondylus princeps*, are concentrated in Early Classic ceremonial contexts, and though they sometimes occur in Late Classic tombs, they are more likely heirlooms of the previous period. Considering that shells of this species have been recovered in Early Classic contexts at Tikal and Uaxactun, and Late Classic times at San Jose (Feldman 1974:131), it is also possible that the Caledonia specimen may have been imported via Tikal or Uaxactun.

Species of Caribbean origin were by far more accessible and are indeed more common at sites in the Chiquibul and Maya Lowlands. Since their distribution at Eduardo Quiroz Cave reflected that of Altun Ha, Pendergast (1971:77) suggested the latter site as a
possible source. Assuming that long distance exchange was what we may term “down the line trade,” is it more feasible to believe that this material may have come to Caledonia and the Chiquibul via sites in the Belize Valley.

Ceramics

Not having conducted trace element studies, ceramics are by far the most difficult artefactual remains to assess in terms of their place of origin or manufacture. Notwithstanding, cross-cultural observations may still be made on the basis of modal and stylistic attributes.

Ceramics from Preclassic, Early Classic and Middle Classic contexts, for example, greatly reflect the common attributes of the Chicanel, Tzakol and Tepeu 1 horizons as they are represented at sites such as Uaxactun, Altar de Sacrificios and Seibal in the Peten (See Willey et al. 1967). The type variety markers of these horizons at Caledonia include such types as Sierra Red, Dos Arroyos Polychromes and Saxche Orange Polychromes.

The end of the Tepeu 1 horizon apparently also ends the predominance of the ceramic relationship with the Peten and heralds the introduction of types markedly similar to those of the Belize Valley. Among the first of these new types to become evident at Caledonia are Saturday Creek Polychromes. By Tepeu 2 times, this relationship appears to be fully developed and very well marked by
the introduction of ash or tuff as a major tempering agent. Subsequently, vessels very similar and often identical in form and execution of design to those of the Spanish Lookout Complex quickly assume popularity. Specifically among these are vinaceous tawny wares such as Benque Viejo Polychromes and Belize Red material.

To say that the previous Peten connection completely disappears at this time, however, would be inaccurate for traces of that relationship are still evident. This is especially true when we consider the relatively high frequency of modeled censers at the site, their relative absence in the Belize Valley and their wide distribution in the Peten (Smith 1955, Adams 1971, Sabloff 1975).

By the latter half of the Terminal Classic to Tepeu 3 horizon, the disappearance of Spanish Lookout Phase ceramics in the Belize Valley (Willey 1973:98) is also evident and reflected in the ceramic assemblage at Caledonia. What follows is perhaps one of the most interesting ceramic developments at the site. A re-introduction of Peten-like material, or, as Sabloff (1973L129; 1975:239) suggests, an introduction of “non-Maya” traits, coupled with distinctive regional (Chiquibul) types and ideas. Chief among the “non-Maya,” Peten-like traits at Caledonia are what Sabloff (1975:237) calls the “Late Classic incensario subcomplexes.” Included among these censers are such types as Miseria Appliquéd: Variety Unspecified, Miseria Appliquéd: Hollow Handle Variety and Spiked-cone censers (for Caledonia specimens see figures 126-130).
Other “non-Maya” traits present in the Peten during this period are Fine Orange material, specifically Pabellon Modeled-carved vases. Although vessels of similar paste are absent, the style and artistic representation of the Caledonia Modeled-carved vase parallels those of the Peten. This clearly argues against material exportation but in effect may constitute diffusion of ideas through contact. Maya blue pigment, or its method of production, may have also been introduced simultaneously.

Despite these powerful influences, and limited as it may be, the Chiquibul Maya still found room for local expression. This expression is portrayed by the introduction of two types of censer lids, the Scored Incised and the Scored Incised: Strap Handle Variety. Both of these regionally specific types, however, may have evolved as part of the death of throes of the Caledonia and the Chiquibul Maya, for as suddenly as they and their “non-Maya” counterparts surface, the site is abandoned.
Non-Exotic Material

Granite

Located on the Macal River, in the granite bearing zone of the Maya Mountains, Caledonia enjoys a relatively unique setting. This uniqueness stems from the fact that the only known sources of granite in the Maya Lowlands are in the Maya Mountains of Belize (Simmons 1959; Wright et al. 1959; Furley 1968; Shipley 1978). All other sources are located in the mountains of Guatemala, Mexico and Salvador (Sidrys and Andresen 1976).

In terms of regional and intraregional exchange this is of significant interest, for numerous references in the archaeological literature point to the Maya Mountains as the major source of granite for the manufacturing of manos and metates (See Thompson 1939:173; Willey et al. 1965:452; Pendergast 1969:54; 1971:77; Rathje 1972:388; Sidrys and Andresen 1976). More recently, by employing petrographic analyses, Shipley and Graham (n.d.) were able to trace 18 mano fragments from Seibal and Uaxactun to their Maya Mountain sources.
Because of its unique location and strategic position along the banks of the eastern branch of the Belize River, it is then logical to assume that Caledonia may have very well controlled part of the export of this commodity. Whether the site controlled the supply of granite to the Belize Valley and points to the north and northwest may be somewhat farfetched, especially since there are several sources between Caledonia and that region. Geographical considerations, however, argue favourably for partial control of supply to points within the Chiquibul and sites to the south and southwest (Seibal ?). This observation has in fact been indicated previously by both Pendergast (1969:54; 1971:77) and Walsh (1985), who suggest locations along the Macal River as the most likely source of granite.

Accepting Caledonia's involvement in the exchange of this commodity is fairly logical. The difficulty with the hypotheses is presently one of chronology and sourcing. When did the site become involved in the exchange of granite, when was this involvement at its peak, and when did it end?
The limited data presently available from Caracol suggests it was an Early Classic development (Walsh 1985), while material from the Chiquibul caves (Pendergast 1969; 1971) and Seibal (Willey 1978) indicate that it may be a Late Classic activity. A similar case seems to exist in the north. In the Belize Valley, objects made of granite first appear in the Preclassic, become more frequent in the Early Late Classic, then fade out in the Terminal Classic (Willey et al. 1965:462). Conversely, granite manos and metates at San Jose are a Late Classic introduction (Thompson 1939:172). From a local perspective, and assuming that site development and expansion may be used as indicators of increasing wealth resulting from exploitation of exchangeable resources, the export of granite could have developed in the Early Classic, become concentrated in the Early Late Classic, and waned in the Terminal Classic.
Limestone, Bone and Pottery

There is little doubt that these resources were collected locally and probably only used for local consumption. As Pendergast (1969:54) notes, these materials are readily available throughout the Chiquibul. Limestone is the parent rock of soils in the region and deer are plentiful in the Pine Ridge. Even Scored Incised Censers (figures 130-133) which seem to be regionally specific, have a wide and contemporaneous distribution in the Chiquibul.

Shells

Both species of river snails identified at Caledonia (Pomacea flagellata and Pachychilus glaphyrus) have a wide distribution in the Chiquibul. Freshwater mussels (Nephronaias ortomanni), however, are much less common though fairly abundant in the Macal River. The shells of this bivalve are generally used for beads and pendants and are reported from Late Classic contexts at Eduardo Quiroz Cave (Pendergast 1971:74, fig. 17i-k) and Caracol (Walsh 1985). Considering the relative absence of surface streams in the Chiquibul and their high frequency in the Macal River, it is possible that these shells may have been exploited for export on a regional basis during the Classic Period by the Caledonia people.
Problematic Material

Maya Blue

Maya Blue occurs on several vessel fragments and stuccoed material of Terminal Classic – Early Postclassic contexts at Caledonia. Elsewhere in the Maya area use of the pigment has been reported from Early Classic to Post-Classic times (Smith 1955; Ferree 1972; Pendergast 1974).

In the past, numerous studies attempted to analyse its elemental composition and the possible sources of its raw materials (Folan 1968; Shepard 1971; Littman 1980). Both Gettens (1962) and Shepard (1962) earlier suggested that Maya Blue was most likely composed of number of mineral pigments combined with an absorbed organic colorant. Later Van Olphen (1966) was able to produce a blue pigment from attapulgite and sepiolite clays, suggesting that they were very likely major components of the ancient paint. Recently, the application of X-ray diffraction analysis to some archaeological
Samples indicated that attapulgite is most likely the base for the paint, while the colorant possibly comes from indigo (Littman 1980). The analysis was also able to identify various types or variables of Maya Blue from different regions within the Maya area. According to Littman (1980), this variability is likely due to different components in the attapulgite from one region to another. Thus is appears that in the case of Maya Blue we may be dealing with the diffusion of an idea rather than the exchange of a commodity.
Chapter 6 – Concluding Remarks

Introduction

As previously indicated, archaeological investigations at Caledonia were initially conducted as part of a salvage program. Subsequent research, however, set out to seek answers to several important questions. Foremost among these was the temporal placement and role of Caledonia, and by extension the Chiquibul, in Maya prehistory. Secondly, we hoped to determine whether the site might have been involved in local or intraregional exchange, and if possible, to define this activity in relation to factors of time and space. After two seasons of investigations, followed by detailed artefactual analysis, some answers to these important questions can now be addressed.

Position and Status of Caledonia in the Chiquibul

Applying Adams and Jones’ (1981) and Turner et al. (1981) methodology and criteria for assessing rank ordering of sites, Caledonia may be classified as a minor center. Politically this would indicate that the site came under the influence, if not actual control, of a larger primary center. The nearest major site is Caracol, previously ranked as a secondary major center by Marcus (1976). Recent work by Chase and Chase (personal communication), however, indicates that the latter may have to be re-evaluated in terms of rank, with Caracol established as a primary center. Thus,
the absence of other large sites in the vicinity and the proximity of Caracol may indicate that the latter was the dominant power in the prehistoric Chiquibul. By extension, this suggests that small sites such as the Mountain Cow Complex, Maria Camp and Caledonia may have been subservient to Caracol during that site’s apogee. Data from Caledonia also proposes that the relationship between this site and Caracol may have been based on trade and commerce. A role in which the former performed the functions of a commercial middleman with sites to the north, and as supplier of granite and other resources for intraregional distribution by the latter.

**Developmental Chronology of Caledonia**

Using ceramic data, and to a small degree Carbon 14 determinations, as the basis for chronological reconstruction, it is now evident that the site of Caledonia was consistently occupied from as early as the Late Preclassic or Proto-Classic Period (A.D. 100-350) to the Terminal Classic and perhaps even the Early Post-Classic (A.D. 900-1000).
Preclassic Period

The presence of Chicanel (Sierra Red, Laguna Verde Incised) and Floral Park (Aguacate Orange) ceramic sphere materials (Figs. 85-113) in the lowest levels of Str. C-1 suggest that Caledonia was first occupied in the Late Preclassic Period. This early occupation is further supported by a single Carbon 14 date, 2010 B.P. ± 280 (MASCA correction A.D. 50 ± 280) from a similar context.

The fact that this initial period of settlement is only evident in Str. C-1 may simply reflect the limits of our small excavation sample. Nonetheless, it does help to establish that Caledonia was settled contemporaneously with sites in the Mountain Cow Complex (Thompson 1931) and shortly after Caracol (Walsh 1985).

Architecturally, this early period of occupation also produced the first non-perishable structure which incorporated the first burial (Burial 5) at the site. During this time, Phase 1 of Str. C-1 was constructed and shortly after, renovated and modified (Phase 2).
Early Classic (Tzakol 1-2)

In the Peten (Sabloff 1975:14-15) and the Belize Valley (Willey et al. 1965:359), the major horizon markers of these first two facets of the Tzakol sphere are principally Dos Arroyos Orange Polychromes. At Caledonia, this ceramic type is fairly well represented among basal flanged dishes (Fig. 29). The majority of these remains were found in Str. C-1, and a small number were recovered from structural fill in the lowest level Str. C-2.

As in the Preclassic Period, architectural activity during this time was still only limited to Str. C-1. A new phase (Phase 3) of construction increased the previous size of the building and what may be the first masonry superstructure at the site, was constructed on top of the low platform.

This architectural inactivity at the site center, however, may actually reflect the concentration of construction energies elsewhere, specifically those associated with intensive modes of subsistence. To date, agricultural terraces have been identified in large concentrations around the Zayden Creek area just south of Caledonia (Healy et al. 1980) and also on the southwestern periphery of the site. Indeed, Healy et al. (1980:790) report that ceramics and Carbon 14 determinations indicate that the minority of agricultural terraces peripheral to Caledonia (specifically at Zayden Creek) appear to have been constructed during this time.
Middle Classic (Tzakol 3 – Tepeu 1)

When viewed against the central Maya Lowlands, the Middle Classic (A.D. 500-600) is one of the most interesting and dynamic periods of occupation at Caledonia and perhaps the entire Chiquibul.

In the Central Lowlands or northeastern Peten, this period (9.5.0.0.0 – 9.8.0.0.0 or A.D. 534-593) experienced a sharp decline and nearly complete disappearance of dedicatory monuments and the number of sites where these occurred (Willey 1974). Furthermore, Willey (1974:419-420) states that this “was a time of little or no constructional activity,” and perhaps portrays “a weakening of the central socio-political structure of the culture…."

Conversely, while sites in the “core area” were reflecting the symptoms of the Classic Maya hiatus, the Chiquibul Maya seemingly flourished. At Caracol this fluorescence is indicated by the erection and commemoration of several carved monuments within the site core. Indeed, Beetz and Satterthwaite (1981) record no less than six carved stelae and six altars. According to Sosa and Reents (1980), glyphic information from some of these monuments also suggests that Caracol may have subjugated the Peten site of Naranjo during this period of prominence. Unfortunately, this Middle Classic fluorescence has yet to be identified architecturally, but hopefully, the present investigations by Chase and Chase (personal communication) may soon provide data clarifying this phenomena.
Caledonia, on the other hand, apparently lacks carved monuments but provides us with intensive architectural activity and external interaction during this time. Within the site center we see the construction of two major structures (Phase 1 of Strs. A-1 and C-2), the expansion of Str. C-1 (Phase 4), and the levelling and plastering of Plazas A and C. Ceramically, this period also marks the introduction of Saxche Orange Polychromes (Figs. 37-44) and the importation of Teotihuacan style slab-footed cylinder vases (Fig. 99b). Trade in other exotic items such as shell, obsidian and jade, plus the exportation of granite and shells is also evident, and, though no settlement pattern studies were conducted, one may assume that these activities probably reflect a growing population. More importantly, they suggest that unlike their Peten cousins, the Caledonia and Chiquibul Maya did not experience the same degree of disruption of their previous socio-political structure during this period.

Webb (1973) and Rathje (1971; 1973) suggest that the causal factor of the hiatus may have been what Willey (1974:424) terms a “trade failure hypothesis” in the central heartland which led to the rise of centers in the peripheral zones. Applying data from central Mexico for analogy, Willey (1978:426) further adds that the reason for the development of sites peripheral to the Maya heartland during the hiatus may be due to the decentralization of power at Tikal giving them “opportunity to break out of the old structure and to form new centers of power.”
Our research may be too limited to deny this observation but our data does offer an additional hypothesis for the lack of non-hiatus symptoms at Caledonia and the Chiquibul at large. Basically we see that while the heartland Maya were experiencing stress and a weakening of their socio-political system, the Chiquibul Maya were well organized, construction was booming and they were socio-politically quite stable. What was it that maintained this stability and provided the impetus for political and economic prosperity? Our data suggests that it was related to the development of intensive agricultural systems, their design, construction and maintenance.

As Healy et al. (1980:791), Turner (1983:107-121) and Healy (1985 personal communication) have indicated, the building and maintaining of agricultural terraces demanded a high level of social control, along with socio-political stability. Accepting this premise, the Early Classic date of construction of the Zayden Creek and Hatzcap Ceel terraces then argues favourably in support of our hypothesis. In other words, when people in the Maya heartland were experiencing disruptive social problems, those in the Chiquibul were busily occupied, and concerned, with establishing large scale, intensive and dependable methods of subsistence for survival.

Regarding the need for these intensive agricultural systems, I perceive two factors that may be responsible; demography and physical geography. At present there is little Early Classic demographic date for the Chiquibul, but that is merely a reflection if
the archaeological interest (or lack thereof) in this area in the past. Nonetheless, the settling of Caracol, the Mountain Cow Complex and Caledonia in the Preclassic, and the surge of development during the Middle Classic, likely indicates population expansion in the region.

Unlike its prehistoric demography, the physical geography and ecology of the Chiquibul has been very well documented by several studies (See Lundell 1940; Wright et al. 1959; Johnson and Chaffey 1973) and summarized by Healy et al. (1980:776-778) and Healy (1983:399-400). Basically the topography of the region is very irregular with rolling and steep-sided hills (often in excess of 30 degrees) that have fairly thin soils. Although drier than the southern part of the country, annual precipitation ranges between 140-400 centimeters. From an agricultural perspective this means that the erosion and leaching of hill slopes must have been an early and increasing problem of the swidden farming Chiquibul Maya. Such problems may have created pressure to develop protective, if not also intensive, methods of agriculture at an early date in this region. Assuming this was the case, it would have undoubtedly provided a desire among the populace to maintain socio-political stability and perhaps a willingness to accept a higher level of social control.

Whatever the reason may be, it seems clear that the Chiquibul Maya did not participate in what Proskouriakoff (1950:11-112) refers to as the “dark period” of Maya culture and its expression thereof. Conversely, we see a period of development marked by a surge of
dedicatory monuments, architectural activity, cultural exchange, intensive agriculture and very likely, demographic expansion.

**Late Classic (Tepeu 1-3)**

In the Late Classic we see a continuum and expansion of the previous developments at Caledonia. This expansion is vividly evident in the architectural record. All the excavated structures show signs of an increase in size and complexity, specifically with the introduction of large vaulted masonry superstructures. The site may have also grown considerably during this time, and among other new structures, a relatively large ball court was included.

The most interesting development during this period, however, was in the site’s external relationship. Whereas the ceramic remains of the previous periods reflected cultural ties with the central Peten, Late Classic components indicate a quiescence of this former relationship and a new cultural unity with the Belize Valley (See Chapter 5, section on ceramics). This is in sharp contrast with Pendergast’s (1969:59; 1971:115-116) observations at Actun Balam and Eduardo Quiroz Cave. At both sites he notes that, “the physical separation created by the Macal River appears to mark a moderately sharp cultural separation…,” with the Belize Valley/Rio Frio sites (Pendergast 1971:116). Assuming that his observations are true at other unexcavated Chiquibul sites, this would indicate that Caledonia not only occupied a biogeographically transitional zone but also a culturally transitional one. Such a location may have
given the site strategic control over exchange of resources from one region to another.

Unfortunately, supporting data will have to await further research in the Chiquibul. Nonetheless, previous investigations at Lubaantun (Hammond 1975) and Caracol (Walsh 1985) have identified Belize Red material and other ash tempered ceramics at those sites. Data from the former also led Gifford (1976:257) to suggest that the Belize Valley ceramic types identified at Lubaantun may have been exported from Barton Ramie via the Chiquibul. More recently A. Chase (1985 communication) has recovered more data supporting a Late Classic Chiquibul/Belize Valley connection. Whether this material actually constitutes trade items imported via Caledonia is another matter, and one much more difficult to determine. From a theoretical perspective, however, the change of external influences from the Peten to the Belize Valley probably resulted due to the instability brought about by the marked hiatus in the former region.
Terminal Classic – Early Post-Classic

This period, which witnesses the introduction of a new and “non-Maya” cultural expression in the Peten, followed by the collapse, is very well represented at Caledonia. Among the most diagnostic changes evident at the site is another reorientation of previous external relationships. Whereby the latter facets of the Tepeu horizon were marked by close ties with the Belize Valley, the Terminal Classic – Early Post-Classic material culture of Caledonia resembles more closely that of the “Mexicanized” Peten, coupled with a certain degree of autonomy.

This dual identity is perhaps best represented by the introduction of Modeled-Carved vases similar, and at the same time distinctly different, to fine orange Pabellon Modeled-Carved vessels at Seibal and Altar de Sacrificios (Adams 1971:50-51; Sabloff 1975:195-198).

A second and very interesting aspect of this period of occupation is what appears to be a close relationship with Seibal in particular, rather than the Peten in general. Besides the introduction of Modeled-Carved vases, the Caledonia ceramics strongly reflect the Terminal Classic “incensario subcomplex” of Seibal. Chiefly among these are Miseria Appliquéd spiked and ladle censers. Both types are well represented and widely distributed at Caledonia and seem to assume prominence among vessel of Terminal Classic ceremonial contexts at the site.
In addition to ceramics, the Bayal architectural florescence evident at Seibal (Sabloff 1097) is to a certain degree also paralleled at Caledonia. In Str. C-1, two large benches were constructed within the vaulted superstructure and stucco friezes or facades were added to both Str. C-1 and C-2. Whether the Maya Blue Pigment used to colour some of this stucco, or its method of manufacture, was introduced simultaneously is difficult to determine. Considering the close ties present, however, Seibal could indeed prove to be a likely source.

Looking beyond these close similarities is the seemingly intriguing questions regarding the causal factors for this Seibal/Caledonia connection. On closer observation, however, the answers may be more straightforward than they appear. From a geographical perspective, for example, Caledonia, in addition to Caracol and the entire Chiquibul, is in closer proximity to Seibal than to any of the other central Peten sites. Secondly, several manos of Late Classic contexts from Seibal have been traced to the Maya Mountains (Shipley and Graham n.d.). Considering the proximity of the two sites it is logical to assume that this material may have reached Seibal from the Caledonia area via Caracol, establishing through the years, close cultural ties between the two regions.

It also follows logically that is Seibal (as Sabloff and Willey [1967] suggest) was invaded and made one of the headquarters of the “Mexicanized” Maya groups (Adams 1971:162), and assuming that
previous external ties were not disrupted, Caledonia and other sites in the Chiquibul would reflect this change so evident in the Peten. The data already presented for Caledonia definitely appears to support this contention. Furthermore, the limited data presently available for the Chiquibul and outlying area also argues in favour of this possibility. For example, Miseria Appliquéd censers have been reported at Tzimin Kax (Thompson 1931:227), Rio Frio Caves C and E (Pendergast 1970:46) and as far north as Pacbitun (Wright 1985) but not in the Belize Valley.

Ceramic remains from housemounds within the perimeter of Caracol also lack Miseria Appliquéd material but do include Modeled-Carved vessels (Walsh 1985). Nevertheless, considering that the former type was only found in ceremonial contexts at Caledonia, they may yet be found within the site center. Unfortunately, we must once again await the conclusion of present investigations at Caracol to see whether that major site supports or deny this hypothesis.

What is very evident, however, is that shortly after the appearance of the Seibal-like or “Mexicanized” influences, Caledonia, like other sites in the Chiquibul, is suddenly abandoned. Furthermore, there is no evidence that this denouement was the result of military upheaval. Whether it came about due to ecological stress or a breakdown of commercial ties and concerns is also difficult to determine. If the survival of Caledonia was extremely dependent on the exchange of local resources and its position as “middleman” for
the Chiquibul and regions to the north, the collapse of large consumer centers throughout the Maya Lowlands would have undoubtedly heralded similar catastrophe for this strategically located minor center.
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Wright, L  
APPENDIX A

Report on the Osteology of Human Remains from Burials 1, 3, 4, and 5 from Caledonia.
By Hermann Helmuth (Trent University).

Burial 1

Poor preservation of many of the bones precluded a detailed osteological analysis. Tables 2 and 3 provide lists of the identified bones and dental remains from the tomb.

The bony remains are almost exclusively dental or, if from the post cranial skeleton, from bones of the hand and foot, which are small and relatively insignificant. Approximately 40 cranial pieces were identified but these were too small and fragmentary to be identified as to their exact origin, age or sexual identity.

The dental remains were well preserved. Shovelling of the median upper incisors (n=10) and even the lateral incisors (n=11) testify to the Amerindian origin. There was also a heavy or very heavy calculus build-up on molars and all other teeth. This observation is in agreement with many others on dental material from the Belizean sites of Altun Ha (Helmuth 1975), Lamanai (Helmuth 1983) and elsewhere (Saul
From comparative studies on rats, it is known that a diet high in starch results in a significant degree of calculus deposition which is not likely to be produced by any other diet (Shannon et al. 1970). It is a safe assumption, therefore, that the consumption of maize was a major contributing factor to the calculus formation among the Caledonia Maya.

Several teeth were artificially mutilated by filing. According to Romero's (1970:51) classification, the type of dental alteration belongs to Class B5 in two cases, B2 (or B4) in one instance, and C1 in one upper central incisor. Among upper canines, one Class C6 and four B6 mutilations were noted.

Probably the most interesting observations from the human skeletal remains at Caledonia came from the demographic data provided. A minimum of eight individuals can be recognized as being represented from the osteological remains. Furthermore, it is quite likely that a larger number was actually present, but the generally poor preservation does not permit a more precise estimate.

Of these eight individuals, seven were adults, or older (i.e. over 20 years of age), and one individual must have been a child between six and 14 years old to judge from a lack of newly formed premolars and canines, and the presence
### TABLE 3

**BONY REMAINS IDENTIFIED FROM MOUND A1 CRYPT AT CALEDONIA (CAYO)**

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of one permanent molar tooth without fully formed roots. The
sex of one adult individual was most probably female judging
from the overall small size and gracility of the bones. It
is not possible to state how many males were present,
although the size difference among two navicular bones points
to at least one clearly recognizable male.

Burial 3

Burial 3 consisted of a large accumulation of seemingly
commingled human bones in rather broken and fragmentary
conditions. After examining the remains from this burial, I
was able to assemble most of the calvaria of two skulls from
many small pieces. Consequently, I numbered the skulls
"Individual A" and "B".

Individual A:

Artificially deformed skull of a probable male, age 40
or over; steep-high occiput but only slightly deformed front,
maximum cranial length 168 mm.; remains of the jaws match up
so that the affinity of the lower jaw is known. Mandibular
ramus breadth: 33 mm. Dentition well preserved; left and
right lower incisors and canines and right lower Pm1 lost
postmortem; left Pm1 with caries; moderate buildup of dental
plaque; periodontal disease present, attrition strong.
Intersutural bones in lambdoidal suture, and lambda bones present. No metopic suture, no tori. Infraorbital foramen single. Affinities of this skull to postcranial bones must remain tentative since no cervical vertebrae are present to directly prove any connections. Based on size, robustness and color, it is assumed that the following bones of the postcranial skeleton may belong to each other:

Individual A, male, adult or older:
left humerus max. length 317 mm.,
right radius max. length 237 mm.,
right ulna width of olecranon 27 mm.,
right clavicle circumference 45 mm.,
right and left innominate fragments acetabulum diameter 58 mm.,
right femur max. length 444 mm.,
left femur max. length 446 mm.,
right tibia total length 358 mm.,

Body height after Genoves (1967):
femur length: (44.4 + 44.6) /2x2.66 + 66.379 = 184.7 cm.
tibial length: 355 mm. 1.96 + 93.75 = 163.9 cm.

Body height after Trotter and Glesser (1958) for Mexicans:
44.5x2.44 + 58.67 = 167.2 cm.
35.8x2.36 + 80.62 = 165.1 cm.
31.7x2.92 + 73.94 = 166.5 cm.

The body heights obtained after Genoves' formulae seem to contradict the assumed affinities between the femora and
the tibia since they result in approximately 20 cm. difference in height. This is not at all confirmed using the formulae for Mexicans following Trotter and Glesser, which result in only 1 cm. difference between femora, tibia and humerus. The average body height of this individual is therefore approximately 166 cm.

Pathology:

Right clavicle exhibits strong exostosis at acromial end and at trapezoid line which could be attributed to Myositis ossificans.

Individual B:

This individual is only represented by a few bones such as a left humerus fragment, right radius and left tibia. It is less robust than Individual A, but probably also male and of adult or older age.

Individual C:

Consisting of the skull of a probable male individual of young adult age, probably around 20 to 25 years. Skull artificially deformed with moderately deformed front and occiput. Maximum cranial length is 155 mm., minimum frontal breadth 97 mm., well preserved mandible with bicondylar
breadth approximately 118 mm., bigonal breadth 96 mm., ramus height 70 mm., ramus breadth 35 mm., symphyseal height 36 mm. All teeth of the lower dentition present, upper left and right incisors and upper right M3 missing postmortem; slight dental plaque, attrition weak, no signs of periodontal disease. Upper canines mutilated by filing to sharp point. No caries. Skull with no metopic suture, but lambdoidal bones, no tori, single supraorbital foramina, one right parietal foramen and single mental foramina.

Postcranial Skeleton:

To judge from the age of this skull, it may well belong to postcranial bones of a young age such as:
left humerus max. length 288 mm., epiphyseal lines visible, right humerus fragment with head diameters vertical 45, transversal 43 mm., right radius with transversal head diameter 20 mm., distal epiphysis missing, left and right femora fragments, vertical head diameter left 45 mm., transversal diameters of shaft at nutrient foramen left 25, right 26 mm., fragment of left distal tibia with epiphyseal lines visible, sacrum fragment with transversal lines visible.

The young age of these long bones, as indicated by their
still visible fusion between epi- and diaphysis, points strongly to skull C though more direct evidence for such a connection is missing.

Body height:

Assuming a male sex, the humerus length of 288 mm. results in a body height of 158.0 cm. according to Trotter and Glesser (1958) for Mexicans.

Individual D:

Evidence for the presence of a fourth individual is found in the presence of another set of ulnae (left ulna max. length 269 mm.), fragments of left and right femora, left transversal; diameter of head 42 mm. left and right transversal shaft; diameter at nutrient foramen 26 mm. right tibial fragment with antero-posterior diameter 32 mm.

The age of this individual can also be given as adult or older. The small size of the femur head points to a probable female sex. The ulnar length (after Trotter and Glesser 1958; for male Mexicans) can be used to calculate a body height of 170.3 cm. which would be surprisingly tall.
Burial 4

Remains of a minimum number of three individuals were found:

Individual A:

Very weathered and fragmentary remains of most likely an adult male or older individual with very thick bone structure. Fragments of the skull (occipital, frontal and mandibular bones), teeth and splinters of long bones.

The affinities of all the bones and teeth to bones must remain questionable since there exists no clear proof other than their colour, condition of preservation and size.

Teeth: upper jaw, left and right incisors, left C, PM2, M1, and M2;
lower jaw, left C, PM1, M1 and M3, right I1, I2, C, PML, M3.
Caries on upper left I1, I2; lower left M1, M3.

Heavy dental plaque on lower incisors and canine; attrition very strong. The wear, caries frequency, and a few pieces of cranial sutures point to an advanced age which may be guessed at over 40 years.
Individual B:

This individual is represented by one occipital fragment, a right mandibular angle and coronoid process, a lower left M1, M2, M3, and upper left I2, PM1, PM2, M1-M3 and a right upper C. The attrition of these teeth is weak, dental plaque is practically absent. The symphyseal height of the mandible amounts to 27 mm.

The age of this individual can be estimated as young adult, the sex is open. The small mandibular height might point to a female, but one piece of an occipital bone with its external protuberance is strong and could rather belong to a male. If this piece belongs to B then, instead of creating a fourth individual for which there is no further evidence, the sex of individual B must remain open. If this occipital fragment belongs to Individual C, then B could have been of female sex.

Individual C:

The remains which are allotted to this individual are: a mandibular fragment with PM2, M3 right side, I1 and M1 lost antemortem, I2, C, PM2 and M2 lost postmortem, lower right I1, I2; upper right I1 filed at distal side; upper left canine with caries; very heavy attrition; heavy dental
plaque.
Symphysial height 31 mm.

Affinities to other cranial fragments and postcranial fragments is entirely open since the state of preservation of all remains is very poor and few pieces are no more than splinters or very small fragments of short or flat bones. If occipital fragment mentioned above belongs to the mandibular fragments, this individual is most likely of male sex, an adult, or older than approximately 40 years.

Remains of a left scapula, ribs, axis, tibiae and femora cannot be assigned to any of the three individuals. The transversal width across the upper articulating facies of the axis is 50 mm., and thus could belong to Individual B.

Summarizing the analysis of the remains from this tomb, it is most likely that three individuals were buried here, two of which are adult or even much older males. These two males can be identified by mandibular fragments which overlap in their anatomical position and which cannot be lumped together. The third individual appears to be a young adult, and could be female.
Burial 5

This burial consists of only one individual. The skull roof was reassembled and yields the following measurements:

Max. cranial length 172 mm.
Naso-occip. length 172 mm.
Min. frontal breadth 94 mm.
Max. cranial breadth 144 mm.

Mandibular fragments show an abscess at right PM2, upper M1 and left I2 show caries, left lower M1-M3 lost antemortem. Attrition is very advanced, plaque absent or minimal.

Mandibular measurements:
Bicondylar breadth 112 mm.,
Bigonial breadth 88 mm.,
Ramus height 57 mm.,
Ramus breadth 33 mm.

Cranial sutures are very strongly closed and almost invisible endocranially in the coronal and sagittal suture, somewhat less obliterated in the lambdoid suture.

On right frontal bone to beginning of parietal bone there exists a 2x3 cm. large opening with cracks to all sides. The bony edge is larger to the inside, suggesting a traumatic origin. The colour of the bony edges is somewhat stained yellowish-brown but it is difficult to distinguish from that
of new cracks. Thus it is somewhat questionable if this opening was caused by a violent hit with a more or less sharp instrument and consequently led to the death of this individual, or if the injury occurred at the time of excavation.

Postcranial remains:

Apart from many other smaller pieces, some long bones were relatively well preserved and have given the following measurements:
Axis, upper articulating facies diameter 40 mm.,
Humerus, right width of lower end 52 mm.,
Innominate, right acetabular diameter 46 mm.,
Left and right femur, vertical diameter of head 39 mm.,
transversal diameter of head 38 mm.,
Anterior-posterior shaft diameter, right 23 mm.

Other fragments with observable traits were innominate with strong preauricular sulcus, and wide-open greater sciatic notch, atlas, and axis; two more cervical vertebrae with osteoporosis, one lumbar vertebra with strong osteophytosis (lipping); and osteoarthrosis, and sacral vertebrae 1-2 with osteophytosis.

Age and sex of this individual can be given with good confidence. The small size of all long bones, of the vertebrae, the morphological features of the skull and the
innominate all point strongly to a female sex. As to the age of this female, the high degree of suture obliteration, osteophytosis and arthrosis all indicate an age of around 60 years. Due to her advanced age, she suffered extensive lipping of the vertebral column, osteoporosis and arthrosis. It is suspected that she may have died a violent death due to traumatic injury to her cranium.
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Saul, F.P.


Trotter, M., and G.C. Glesser
APPENDIX B

Radiocarbon Dates From Caledonia.

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<tr>
<th>Provenience</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Laboratory</th>
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<th>MASCA Correction</th>
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<td>Str. A-1, Burial 1</td>
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* Small sample, but given extended counting time.
APPENDIX C

Diagnostic Ceramic Types Identified at Caledonia and
Diagnostic Ceramic Forms Provenience Charts.

Aguacate Orange, established by Gifford (Willey et al.
1965:342) at Barton Ramie.

Belize Modeled-Carved, established in this study (also see
Graham et al. 1980).

Benguie Viejo Polychrome, established by Smith and Gifford
(1966:162) at Uaxactun.

Caldero Buff Polychrome, established by Smith and Gifford
(1966:155) at Uaxactun.

Cameron Incised, established by Smith and Gifford (1966:164)
at Uaxactun.

Dos Arroyos Orange Polychrome (listed as Dos Arroyos
Polychrome on charts), established by Smith and Gifford
(1966:157) at Uaxactun.

Gallinero Fluted, established by Gifford (Willey et al. 1965;
Gifford 1976:262) at Barton Ramie.

Islas Gouged-incised, established by Sabloff (1975:198) at
Seibal.

Laguna Verde Incised (Grooved-incised Variety), established
by Sabloff (1975:80) at Seibal.

McRae Impressed, established by Gifford (Willey et al. 1965;
Gifford 1976:259) at Barton Ramie.

Miseria Appliqued (Variety Unspecified), established by Smith
and Gifford (1966) at Uaxactun; Variety Unspecified
established by Sabloff (1975:174) at Seibal.

Pedregal Modeled (Appliqued Head Variety), established by
Smith and Gifford (1966) at Uaxactun; Appliqued Head Variety
established by Sabloff (1975:114) at Seibal.

Platon Punctated Incised, established by Gifford (Willey et
al. 1965; Gifford 1976:257) at Barton Ramie.

Saxche Orange Polychrome, established by Smith and Gifford
(1966:162) at Uaxactun.

Chiquibul Scored Incised (Strap Handle and Scored Incised
Variety), established in this study (listed as Scored Incised
on charts).

Sierra Red, established by Smith and Gifford (1966:163) at Uaxactun.

Silk Grass Fluted, established by Gifford (Willey et al. 1965; Gifford 1976:211) at Barton Ramie.

Toro Gouged-incised, established by Smith and Gifford (1966) at Uaxactun.

Zacatel Cream Polychrome, established by Smith and Gifford (1966:164) at Uaxactun.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORM</th>
<th>PHASE &amp; DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>TYPE AFFILIATION</th>
<th>ILLUSTRATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>Tzakol 3 - Tepeu 1 round-side, incurving rim</td>
<td>Saxche Orange Polychrome</td>
<td>Figs. 46-53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>Tepeu 1 - 2 flaring side</td>
<td>Benque Viejo Polychrome</td>
<td>Figs. 54-57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vase</td>
<td>Tepeu 1 - 3 fluted cylinder</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tepeu 3 Z-angle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Censer</td>
<td>Terminal Classic ladle</td>
<td>Miseria Appliqued</td>
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### DIAGNOSTIC CERAMIC FORMS

**PROVENIENCE CHART: STR. C-1**

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