

A

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM.

16-13

ENT. Br. Guiana

No 8196

Country

People

Locality

Name

Small earthen bowl
(over)

Collection

Quelch - Com. N.G.C.

Where Placed

Notes

ad.
144

exh. 1918

A very good type of pottery is made by the natives of British Guiana for two purposes; the cooking of food and the storage and carrying of water. Vessels for both of these purposes are explained here:

Water bottles are made by only the finest tribes of Guiana, the Savanna Indians using gourd vessels in their place. They are of a delicate and graceful shape and invariably have a pottery stopper to cover the opening. The decorations are always painted and are typical, interesting and always geometric.

Cooking vessels are made and used by all the tribes and are of a graceful shape but seldom decorated. The large pots are known as buck pots and stand in the saucers which also serve as lids. All food is cook in these.

All the pottery is made by the women by coiling method, without the use of the potters' wheel which was unknown in primitive America. It is remarkable that such symmetrical vessels can be made with no other guide than the eye.

A disk of clay is laid on a board and the rest of the clay rolled into long snake-like wisps which are coiled around the circumference of the basal disk, one coil above the other. As the sides of the vessel rise they are smoothed down even with ~~the~~ of a gourd.