Censer Symbolism and the State Polity in Teotihuacán

Research Year: 1998
Culture: Teotihuacán
Chronology: Late Pre-Classic to Late Classic
Location: Highland México
Site: Teotihuacán

Table of Contents

Introduction
Recording and Cataloging
Ritual Ceramics at a Workshop in the Ciudadela, Teotihuacán: Catalog
   Presentation
   Introduction
   General Comments on Cataloging
   Quantification Tables
   Note on the Conventions Used for Captions
Catalog:
   I. Phytomorphic: Realistic and Schematized Representations
   II. Zoomorphic: Realistic and Schematized Representations
   III. Anthropomorphic: Attributes of Deities and Characters
   IV. Other Motifs: Different Representations and Symbols
   V. Other Pieces: Censer Fragments and Molds

Bibliography
Data Base for Theater-type Censers Found in Teotihuacán and Abroad #1
"Adornos" and molds for censers from the "North Palace" in the Ciudadela, Teotihuacán Archaeological Project 1980-82, INAH
"Adornos" and molds for censers from Compound "Group 5" of the Sector N5W1, Scholarship Program, INAH
"Adornos" and molds for censers from surface collection in Teotihuacán, Teotihuacán Mapping Project
"Adornos" and molds for censers from the Project of the Feathered Serpent Pyramid in 1988-89, Arizona State University and INAH

Preliminary Comments

Sources Cited

Note on the Conventions Used for Captions

Considering this is a collection whose origin was a workshop fully dedicated to mold production, most pieces presented are molds and reproductions.

In those cases where only the mold could be recovered, and to obtain examples of the pieces involved, reproductions were made with the clay that modern potters from the village of San Sebastián Xolalpan nowadays use.

An alphabetical order was adopted for the reading of captions, making reference to what we have enunciated in the previous lines:

Therefore:

A. Capital letters indicate: Prehispanic Mold.


Underlined small letters indicate: Modern Reproduction Accomplished with a Prehispanic Mold.

In the case of Molded pieces, they will be indicated throughout the text; to the effects of making comparisons of pieces between two photos, we have indicated: See Photo No....

Example:

Photo No. 1.

B. Mold.

a, c, d, e, h, i. Prehispanic Molded Reproduction.

f, g. Modern Reproduction Made with a Prehispanic Mold.
II. Zoomorphic: Realistic and Schematized Representations.

Photo 17. a, B, c, D, e, f, g. Birds, variants.

Photo 18. A, b. Bird, the body can be entirely seen. c, d, E, f, g, h, i, j, K, l, m, n, o. Bird heads, front and in profile.
Photo 19. A, b, c. Bird heads, emerging from a figure with a central circle. See Photo 155. d. Turkey head seen from above. e. Bird head emerging from a circular figure with feathers. f, g. Bird heads.

Photo 20. A, b, c, d, E, f, g, h, i. Feathered eyes.
Photo 21. a, b. Birds, front, with extended wings.

Photo 22. A, b. Bird body. See Photo 144. a, b, d, c, d. Duck head seen in profile and from above; see the cornea point of beak. e. Duck head seen from above.
Photo 23. a, b, c, d, e. Butterflies, variants.

Photo 24. a, b, c, d, e, f, g. Butterflies, variants.

Photo 26. a, B, c, d, E, f. Butterflies, in profile.
Photo 27. a, b, c, d, e. Butterflies, variants.

Photo 28. a, b, C, d, e, f, g, h, i. Butterflies, variants.

Photo 31. a, B, c, d, e. Butterfly antennas.

Photo 32. A, b, c, D, e, F, g. Stylized butterflies. See Photo 75.
Photo 33. A, b, c, d, f, G, h, i, J, k, l, m, n. Butterfly wings. E. Bird wing. See Photo 22. b.

Photo 34. A, b, c, D, e, f, G, h, i. Tlacuaches?

Photo 37. a, b, c. Feline faces, seen from the palate.

Photo 38. A, b, c. Animal claws.
Photo 39. a, b, c. Animal faces, in profile.

Photo 40. A, b, c, d. Animal heads.

Photo 42. A, b, c, d, e, g, h, i, j, k, l, m. Snails, variants. f. Feathered ornament with shell motifs.
Photo 43. a, b, c, d, E, f, g, h, i, J, k, l, p. Snails, variants. m, n, o. Snails with feathers.

Photo 44. A, b, k, l, m. Shells adorned with drops. C, d, j. Shells with circular ornaments. E, f, g, h, i, n. Shells with beak-shaped adornment.

Photo 46. A, b. Shell. c. Fruit. See Photo 9. a, d, e, f, g. Shells adorned with drops. h, i. Shells with beak-shaped adornment.
Photo 47. a, b, c, D, e, f, g, h, i. Shells.

Photo 48. A, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l. An animal emerging from a shell (rabbits?), variants.
Photo 49. A, B, c, D, e, f. Stars, variants. g. Motif with stars and feathers. See Photo 150. e, f. and Photo 60. b.