

The Pottery of Mangi Sina Site, Kibosho-Kilimanjaro

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Abstract

Various archaeological materials were recovered during research on pre-colonial defence systems in Kilimanjaro. These include pottery and trade materials such as beads and metal objects. The findings were reported in Valerian 2009 and 2012. This paper gives a thorough attribute analysis of pottery materials that were recovered at Mangi Sina site-Kibosho. The pottery analysed exhibit characteristics of large vessels with heavy necked pots, rounded bodies and everted round rims. Also, they have very thick globular bodies, rounded bottoms and rims with bands of fine incisions. Some of the rims are decorated with bands of multiple horizontal and wavy lines while others seem to fit in Odner's (1971) categories.

Introduction

This study is built upon my previous work at the Mangi Sina site, Kibosho-Kilimanjaro (Valerian, 2009, 2012). The main aim of this study is to re-analyse the pottery to explain further the culture of Mangi Sina site. This study shows that Mangi Sina pottery exhibits aspects of Sina's culture and the Chagga social life in general.

The Mangi Sina Site

The Mangi Sina site is found at Maua Village, Kibosho Kati Ward in Kibosho Division (Figure 9.1:). The site derives its name from Chief Sina Kisaro Isale, the famous Mangi of Kibosho from 1870 to 1896 (Valerian, 2009). Excavation was conducted within Mangi Sina's palace. Eleven units of different dimensions were excavated. A number of cultural materials were retrieved. These include bones, beads, metal objects and pottery. Only pottery is being analysed here. The sheer volume of pottery recovered from Mangi Sina site underscores the importance of this artefact category in providing information about the Chagga past.

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