

**Keywords: Popes Creek, Mockley, Chronology, Settlement Patterns (Mortuary Practices, Accokeek, Adena)**

Thurman, Melburn D.

1985 A Cultural Synthesis of the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain, Part I: "Culture Area" and Regional Sequence. *Journal of Middle Atlantic Archaeology* 1:7-32.

Thurman sets out to answer the question, "Does the Middle Atlantic constitute a culture area?" (p. 7). Pottery collections were analyzed from numerous collections from the region in an effort to clarify this point, and a broad overview and interpretation of the culture of the Early Woodland (Transitional period) through the Late Woodland is presented.

In terms of the Middle Woodland period, he determined that Accokeek and Popes Creek wares minimally represent a continuum, but were likely used and manufactured contemporaneously. Considering the more dispersed range of Accokeek, the author theorizes that Popes Creek could have represented a storage type pottery utilized mainly at riverine sites. Alternatively, they may have been made by two separate groups of people: the more mobile Accokeek people and the more sedentary Popes Creek people.

A general overview of Adena mortuary sites is presented, followed by a long narrative concerning the Mockley ware continuum, dubbed, "the oikoumene of the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain" (p. 20). This reference to the Greek word for the known, inhabited world is in regards to the wide-spread use of Mockley, which has been recovered from New York to North Carolina. A mortuary model is then presented, which concludes there was no social ranking in the highly mobile cultures that occupied the region between the Transitional period and the Mockley continuum (p. 23).

Based on the ceramics examination and a further ethnohistorical and linguistic examination of the region, Thurman ends his narrative with the conclusion that "the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain constituted a distinct cultural sub-area of the Woodlands culture area" (p. 31).