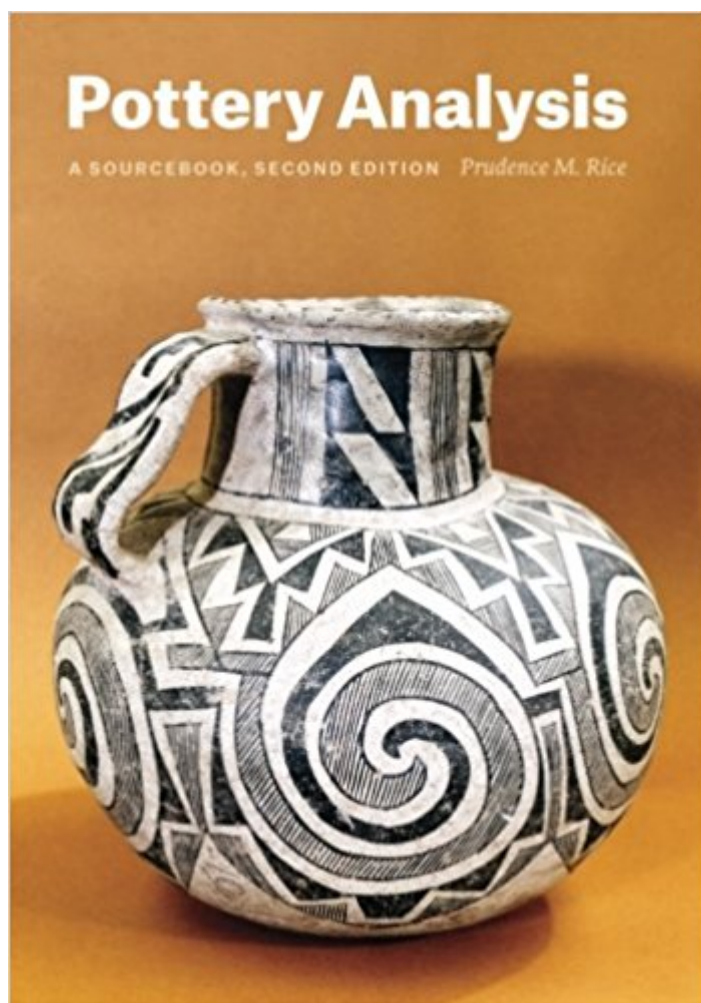


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# Pottery Analysis, Second Edition: A Sourcebook



## Synopsis

Just as a single pot starts with a lump of clay, the study of a pieceâ€™s history must start with an understanding of its raw materials. This principle is the foundation of Pottery Analysis, the acclaimed sourcebook that has become the indispensable guide for archaeologists and anthropologists worldwide. By grounding current research in the larger history of pottery and drawing together diverse approaches to the study of pottery, it offers a rich, comprehensive view of ceramic inquiry. This new edition fully incorporates more than two decades of growth and diversification in the fields of archaeological and ethnographic study of pottery. It begins with a summary of the origins and history of pottery in different parts of the world, then examines the raw materials of pottery and their physical and chemical properties. It addresses ethnographic and ethnoarchaeological perspectives on pottery production; reviews the methods of studying potteryâ€™s physical, mechanical, thermal, mineralogical, and chemical properties; and discusses how proper analysis of artifacts can reveal insights into their culture of origin. Intended for use in the classroom, the lab, and out in the field, this essential text offers an unparalleled basis for pottery research.

## Book Information

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Although it is of special interest to archaeologists, Riceâ€™s compendium is also directed toward a wider audience, including social, physical, and materials scientists. Her broad work provides both an introduction to the topic and an exceedingly valuable asset to the most advanced researcher. . . . Riceâ€™s excellent volume is a true sourcebook and will serve as the standard for

many years to come.â • (On the first edition American Scientist)â œA highly ambitious, well-organized, encyclopedic reference manual conceived on a broad scale and provides a holistic coverage not found in any other volumes.â • (On the first edition Journal of Field Archaeology)â œRice has produced a magnificent synthesis that belongs on every archeologist&#39;s shelf. It is also an excellent textbook for students.â • (On the first edition American Anthropologist)â œThis is the book that all of us interested in ceramic analysis wish we had written. Rice has written a well-organized and comprehensive review of the breadth of research being done in the field of ancient ceramic technology and vessel function, from design analysis to the latest advances in provenience studies in a framework where understanding the potter and the potter&#39;s socioeconomic milieu is the paramount objective.â • (On the first edition Kiva)â œAs a reference work about contemporary ceramic research, it can only be described in superlatives. Rice summarizes nearly everything happening in the study of ceramics today. Scholars and students alike will find something in the book related to their interest. . . . An important book.â • (On the first edition Antiquity)

Prudence M. Rice is distinguished professor emerita in the Department of Anthropology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

This book contains a huge amount of detailed information. It is well written in a clear and concise way. I am a beginner in the archaeology field. However, I was able to find the information I needed, and more. Although there certainly is a good deal of scientific discussion, I found that I could make sense of it, even if I had to read some of the material several times. I have decided to keep "Pottery Analysis" as a valuable reference tool.

This book is really helpful for pottery analysis. Had to buy this book for a prehistoric pottery class, and my teacher used this book for the majority of information for her masters thesis. This book tells you anything and everything you could want to know about pottery manufacture down to the atomic and chemical level. Great for archaeologists!

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