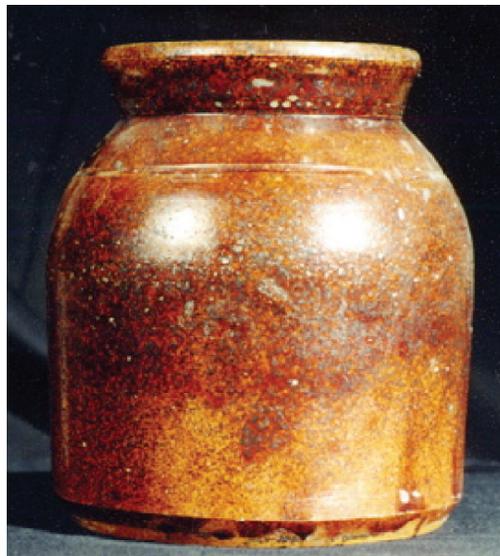


# The Utah Pottery Project: Historic Archaeology and Materials Science

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During the late 19th century, European and Euroamerican immigrants established more than 45 potteries in more than 26 towns and cities throughout the Intermountain Region of North America. These potters immigrated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) and brought with them their technological expertise into this arid region. Using materials science techniques, the Utah Pottery Project seeks to unravel the complexities of economic interaction in the "Mormon Domain." A baseline study using neutron activation analysis (NAA) of pottery from several of the primary LDS production sites was conducted in 2002 and enabled the identification discrete "chemical fingerprints" for each of the potteries included in the study. More recently, the first NAA study of trade and exchange, mapping the distribution of wares through various routes of exchange was completed. The results, although preliminary, are extremely provocative and raise a number of significant questions about traditional assumptions regarding domestically manufactured earthen- and stoneware production and distribution in the American economy.



*Storage jar in the collection of the Brigham City Museum, in Brigham City, Utah.*

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