A000-Mex-Jalisco-West Mexico-Bowl-Two Headed Snake Design-Ceramic**-**300 BCE-300 CE



Mex-Jalisco-West Mexico-Bowl-Two Headed Snake Design-Ceramic**-**300 BCE-300 CE

**Case No.: 9**

**Accession No.**

**Formal Label:** Mex-Jalisco-West Mexico-Bowl-Two Headed Snake Design-Ceramic**-**300 BCE-300 CE

**Display Description:**

The concept of a two- headed snake with a diamond shaped head suggests a poisonous variety with double the danger of venom. Metaphorically it suggests danger and caution for the individual eating or drinking from this bowl.

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:** 300 BCE-300 CE

**Geographical Area: W Mexico**

**Map:**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ancient_Western_Mexico_Archaeological_Sites.svg)

Western Mexico archaeological sites. The orange circles show archaeological sites. The larger green circles highlight the most important sites. Note that the sites form what has been called the "shaft tomb arc" which extends from northwest Nayarit through the central Jalisco highlands and down to Colima. After <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d3/Ancient_Western_Mexico_Archaeological_Sites.svg/525px-Ancient_Western_Mexico_Archaeological_Sites.svg.png>

**GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Media:**

**Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

Nomadic peoples moving south arrived to the Jalisco area around 15,000 years ago. Some of oldest evidence of human occupation is found around Zacoalco and Chapala lakes, which used to be connected. This evidence includes human and animal bones and tools made of bone and stone. Other signs of human habitation include petroglyphs and cave paintings found at Cabo Corrientes, San Gabriel, Jesús María, La Huerta, Puerto Vallarta, Mixtlán, Villa Purificación, Casimiro Castillo, Zapotlán el Grande and Pihuamo.

Agriculture began in the same region around 7,000 years ago, giving rise to the first permanent settlements in western Mexico. Ceramics began to be produced about 3,500 years ago for both utilitarian and ceremonial purposes. The oldest pieces of Jalisco area pottery are called El Opeño, after an area near [Zamora, Michoacán](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zamora,_Michoac%C3%A1n) and [Capacha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capacha" \o "Capacha) after an area in [Colima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colima). The appearance of these styles indicates a certain specialization of labor, with distinct settled cultures established by 1000 BCE.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jalisco#cite_note-aborigengob-36) The earliest settled cultures were centered on the site of Chupícuaro, Guanajuato, which has a large zone of influence from [Durango](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durango) east, crossing through modern Jalisco’s north. Sites related to these cultures have been found in Bolaños, Totoate, the Bolaños River Canyon and Totatiche as well as other locations in the Los Altos Region. ultures dating to the early part of the Christian era are distinguished by the use of [shaft tombs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Mexico_shaft_tomb_tradition), with major examples found in Acatlán de Juárez, El Arenal and Casimiro Castillo. The use of this type of tomb is unknown anywhere else in Mexico.

**References:**

* American Museum of Natural History, ["Mexican and Central American Virtual Hall"](http://anthro.amnh.org/anthropology/research/mca_objects.cfm?case_number=3), accessed April 2008.
* Beekman, Christopher S. (1996). [*"Political Boundaries and Political Structure: The Limits of the Teuchitlan Tradition"*](https://web.archive.org/web/20090306000631/http:/carbon.cudenver.edu/~cbeekman/articles/am96pap.pdf) (PDF). [*Ancient Mesoamerica*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ancient_Mesoamerica_(journal)&action=edit&redlink=1). London and New York: [*Cambridge University Press*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambridge_University_Press). **7** (1): 135–147. [*doi*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_object_identifier):[*10.1017/S0956536100001346*](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0956536100001346). [*ISSN*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Serial_Number) [*0956-5361*](https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0956-5361). [*OCLC*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OCLC) [*88113895*](https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/88113895). Archived from [*the original*](http://carbon.cudenver.edu/~cbeekman/articles/am96pap.pdf) ([*PDF*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PDF) online facsimile) on 2009-03-06.
* Beekman, Christopher S. (December 2000). [*"The Correspondence of Regional Patterns and Local Strategies in Formative to Classic Period West Mexico"*](http://carbon.cudenver.edu/~cbeekman/articles/jaa00.pdf) ([*PDF*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PDF) online facsimile). [*Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journal_of_Anthropological_Archaeology). Orlando, Florida: [*Academic Press*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_Press). **19** (4): 385–412. [*doi*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_object_identifier):[*10.1006/jaar.1999.0354*](https://doi.org/10.1006/jaar.1999.0354). [*ISSN*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Serial_Number) [*0278-4165*](https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0278-4165). [*OCLC*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OCLC) [*201247825*](https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/201247825).
* Bruhns, Karen Olsen (1994) *Ancient South America*, Cambridge World Archaeology series, Cambridge University Press, [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [978-0-521-27761-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/978-0-521-27761-7).
* Christensen, Alexander F. (1999) "Review of *Ancient West Mexico: Art and Archaeology of the Unknown Past*", *Ethnohistory*, Vol 46, No 3, pp. 627–630.
* [Coe, Michael](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_D._Coe) (1994) *Mexico, from the Olmecs to the Aztecs*, Fourth Edition, Thames and Hudson, [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [0-500-27722-2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/0-500-27722-2).
* Coe, Michael and Dean Snow and Elizabeth Benson (1986) *Atlas of Ancient America*; Facts on File, New York.
* Covarrubias, Miguel (1957) *Indian Art of Mexico and Central America*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York.
* Crossley, Mimi, ["Unknown Mexico/México Desconocido"](http://www.humanities-interactive.org/unknown/unknowntext.htm), accessed June 2008.
* Danien, Elin (2004) ["On the Dilemma of a Horn: the Horned Shamans of West Mexico"](http://130.91.80.97:591/PDFs/46-1/On%20the%20Dilemma.pdf) in *Expedition - Philadelphia*, Vol 46, pp. 22–35.
* Foster, Michael (2000) *Greater Mesoamerica: The Archaeology of West and Northwest Mesoamerica*, University of Utah Press, [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [978-0-87480-655-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/978-0-87480-655-7).
* Hosler, Dorothy (1995) *The Sounds and Colors of Power: The Sacred Metallurgical Technology*, The MIT Press, [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [978-0-262-08230-3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/978-0-262-08230-3)
* International Council of Museums Red List, ["Nayarit figures (Mexico)"](http://icom.museum/redlist/LatinAmerica/english/page04.htm), accessed April 2008.
* López Mestas C., Lorenza and Jorge Ramos de la Vega (2006) "Some Interpretations of the Huitzilapa Shaft Tomb", in *Ancient Mesoamerica*, vol. 17, pp. 271–281.
* Kan, Michael (1989) "The Pre-Columbian Art of West Mexico: Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima" in *Sculpture of Ancient West Mexico, Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, University of New Mexico Press, [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [0-8263-1175-X](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/0-8263-1175-X).
* Kappelman, Julia [Art 347L "Mesoamerican Art Syllabus: West Mexico"](http://www.utexas.edu/cofa/a_ah/dir/precol/west_mexico.htm), accessed April 2008.
* Kubler, George (1984) *The Art and Architecture of Ancient America: The Mexican, Maya and Andean Peoples*, Pelican History of Art, Yale University Press, [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [0-300-05325-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/0-300-05325-8).
* Meighan, Clement W.; H. B. Nicholson (1989) "The Ceramic Mortuary Offerings of Prehistoric West Mexico: an Archaeological Perspective" in *Sculpture of Ancient West Mexico, Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, University of New Mexico Press, [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [0-8263-1175-X](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/0-8263-1175-X).
* Michelet, Dominique (2000) "Western Mexico" in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Mesoamerican Cultures*, David Carrasco, ed., Catherine Sifel, Marhe Imber, translators, Oxford University Press, pp. 328–333, [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [978-0-19-514257-0](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/978-0-19-514257-0).
* [Metropolitan Museum of Art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolitan_Museum_of_Art), Timeline of Art History, accessed April 2008.
* Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (2005) *Born of Clay: Ceramics from the National Museum of the American Indian*, NMAI Editions, [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [1-933565-01-2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/1-933565-01-2).
* Sund, Judy (2000) ["Beyond the Grave: The Twentieth-Century Afterlife of West Mexican Burial Effigies"](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0422/is_/ai_69411773), the Art Bulletin.
* Taylor, R. E. (1970) "The Shaft Tombs of Western Mexico: Problems in the Interpretation of Religious Function in Nonhistoric Archaeological Contexts", in *American Antiquity*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (Apr., 1970), pp. 160–169.
* Toscano, Salvador (1946) "El Arte y la Historia del Occidente en Mexico" in *Arte Precolombino del Occidente de Mexico*, Salvador Toscano, Paul Kirchoff, Daniel Rubin de la Borbolla, eds., Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City, pp. 9–33.
* Weigand, Phil (2001) "West Mexico Classic" in *Encyclopedia of Prehistory*, Vol 5, [Peter N. Peregrine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_N._Peregrine) and [Melvin Ember](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melvin_Ember) (eds), [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [978-0-306-46259-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/978-0-306-46259-7).
* Williams, Eduardo ["Prehispanic West México: A Mesoamerican Culture Area"](http://www.famsi.org/research/williams/index.html), Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, Inc. (FAMSI), accessed April 2008.