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Cults and Bradenization: Tracking the Braden School and Iconographic Variability during the Mississippian Period

ABSTRACT

This dissertation has two goals. The first is a stylistic re-analysis of objects in the Mississippian Period (AD 1200-1400) Braden School. The Braden school, which had a widespread impact on other styles throughout the southeast, also had a major impact on symbolic and religious ideas throughout the Southeast. As such, this stylistic analysis utilizes a Practice based theoretical approach to discuss how different communities networked, learned, adjusted, and expressed local conceptions of worldview through ritual practices and iconography. This process of disseminating Braden School imagery, symbolism, and ideas is termed here as Bradenization.