

Black Basal Flange Bowls



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Introduction

Basal flange bowls are common during the last century of the Early Classic. Most are polychrome but many are solid black, with no exterior painting. I am doing the present report on the black basal flange bowls since if we include these with the polychrome basal flange bowls the PDF would be too large (and too heavy to send via e-mail attachment).

Black Basal Flange Bowls with Birds as Lid Handles

Lots of black basal flange bowls have waterbirds as lid handles.



Waterbird getting ready to swallow a fish. The long-snouted reptile face on both sides are the wings.



Waterbird getting ready to swallow a fish. The long-snouted reptile face on both sides are the wings.



Waterbird. The long-snouted reptile face on both sides are the wings. This basal flange bowl has four supports.



Waterbird getting ready to swallow a fish.



Waterbird getting ready to swallow a fish. The long-snouted reptile face on each side is a wing, tim.



Waterbird getting ready to swallow a fish. The long-snouted reptile face on each side is a wing.



Gouged incised decoration on the side of the bowl.





Gouged incised decoration on the other side of the bowl.





Back of the waterbird. The long-snouted reptile face on both sides are the wings.



SA different lid of another basal flange bowl. The long-snouted reptile face on both sides is the wing of a bird.



The long-snouted reptile face on both sides is the wing of a bird.



Most birds' wings are shown as long-snouted reptile faces.



We have not yet found photos of this entire lid. Notice that it is brown instead of black.



Simplified waterbird.



Bird with each wing as a long-snouted reptile face.



This bird is the Principal Bird Deity, not a waterbird.



Design on the lid next to the bird is not the same on each side.



Design on the lid next to the bird is not the same on each side.



Design on the side of the bowl.



Design on the side of the bowl.



Desing on the other side of the bowl.



Desing on the other side of the bowl.



Front of the Principal Bird Deity.



The Principal Bird Deity is a snake eating hawk. This Principal Bird Deity has a snake in its mouth. Each head of the snake is a long-snouted reptile head. The bird's wings are also long snouted-reptile heads. The tail of the bird is behind. The lid-handle is a seated elderly deity, probably either God N or God D.



Lid of a basal flange bowl with the Principal Bird Deity.



Of the two elderly deities, God N and God D, I have never seen either in this context (atop a Principal Bird Deity).



The top of this basal flange bowl looks like a turtle. But the human face is coming out of a bird's beak.



HThe turtle has a head coming out both front and back.



Turtle basal flange bowl lid with two heads.



VBufo Toad (*Bufo marinus* in past decades; now named *Rhinella marina*). The toad is coming out of the Surface of the Underwaterworld in a quaterfoil design.



Behind each eye the toad has its usual oval with three circles inside. This similar design is found with God G1 and with felines, but is in a different context.



The toad is coming out of the Surface of the Underwaterworld in a quatrefoil design.



An iguana-like animal crawls across the Surface of the Underwaterworld.



Fish with deity head at the right.



Fish with deity head at the other end.



Four birds (two of each species) are seeking something to eat at the base of the tower. The two larger birds are probably hummingbirds. Around the center is what looks like a waterlily pad, but these are not



JI have studied plants of Guatemala for over twenty years but have never seen a plant part like this tower.



Curious as to what was inside this basal flange bowl in the 5th century.



Another view of the bizarre botanical depiction. Notice that the wings of the hummingbird are long-snouted reptile faces, same as the waterbirds on other lids.



Faces of Maya men with impressive headdresses.





Large curled long-snouted reptile head under the man's head. Small curled long-snouted reptile head under the earring. The man's head is surrounded by a row of overlapping ovals (just as on 2-dimensional cache vessels).



Bird head and neck at the top of the headdress; then an animal head; then large downward curling long-snouted reptile face over the man's head. A vertical long-snouted reptile head with shark's tooth is behind the headdress of the large reptile head.



Human head with fancy headdress and large decoration under his head.



Large curled long-snouted reptile head under the man's head.



Jaguar head at the top of the headdress. Long-snouted reptile face at the top left of the man's head.



Lid handle of a basal flange bowl. I have turned it sideways so you can see the bearded deity face.