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An Experimental Approach to Netting Technologies in the Delaware River Valley

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AN EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH TO NETTING TECHNOLOGIES IN THE DELAWARE RIVER VALLEY

A Thesis
Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research
in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree
               Master of Arts

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May 2015
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The archaeological record provided evidence of the widespread exploitation of fish in prehistoric Eastern North America, but the amount and quality of evidence for fishing technology is limited. Although nonperishable items such as netsinkers and fishhooks may be common, there are few intact examples of nets that were widely used in the process of fishing. Remaining examples of prehistoric netting in Eastern North America were constructed of cordage, although there are representations of differing construction methods that resulted in a multitude of final products through materials, types, sizes. One potential way of understanding the range of netting technologies utilized in the Middle Atlantic region is to examine impressions left on identified net impressed pottery and replicate these technologies. The Delaware River provides an excellent opportunity because of its history of fish-based subsistence and the presence of net marked ceramic wares, for researchers to solidify their understanding of prehistoric netting technology.