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The terminal Naco Valley in NW Honduras witnessed a major period of political centralization, hierarchy building, and population growth in the Late and Terminal Classic (AD 800–900). It was a time when the valley was unified under paramountistic rule existing at the site of La Sierra. During the Terminal Classic (AD 880–950), power and population dispersed from the capital with the basin-wide hierarchy replaced by heterarchical sociopolitical relations.

Candeleros are found widely throughout SE Mesoamerica during the Late and Terminal Classic. They are found in small numbers within settlements pertaining to varied prehistoric periods and cultures.

In contrast, candeleros are quite common in the Naco valley where they are found across a wide array of domestic and storage contexts. Candeleros are generally made with coarse-textured clays, have flat tops, and stand slightly convex to straight and outslanting. Their sides vary from slightly convex to straight and outslanting.

The Chambers that pierce candeleros' upper surfaces are 1.4–2.8cm in diameter and 3.2–5.2cm in length. Chamber diameters vary from 0.8 to 2.8cm (average: 1.7cm; N=125) whereas 81% of cavities in the sample showed evidence of burning (N=125). Further evidence of burning within the chambers is provided by the presence of vents (0.5–1.4cm in diameter; average: 0.5cm diameter; N=88) that pierce chamber’s exterior walls just above their bases. In 36% of the cases there were signs of soot and near vents, often appearing as plumes rising up a candelero's side. Such openings likely provided oxygen to stoke fires smoldering within or at least near candeleros.

About half the items in the analyzed sample (46%; N=287) are decorated, mostly with simple geometric designs. Most common are incised crosshatching (seen at top left) and sets of incised vertical or diagonal lines, often arranged in relation to the vents. The latter decorations are similar to those painted in red on large storage jars. A minority of the collection (15.1%; N=123) were modeled as honeycomb ('screaming monkeys'). Other forms attested in infrequently in the broader assemblage include a fish, frog, and lizard. These decorations are unique to candeleros.

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