



**NPAP Closing Conference**  
**Amsterdam, 11-13 December 2014**

**INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO  
CERAMIC ANALYSIS AND  
METHODOLOGY FROM A TRANS-  
REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

*Programme  
&  
Abstracts Booklet*



University of Amsterdam



## Programme

### THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup>

Venue: Doelenzaal, University Library (Singel 425)

17.00 – 17.30 Registration for speakers and participants

17.45 – 18.00 **Introduction & welcome**

Vladimir Stissi

18.00 – 19.00 **New perspectives on ancient pottery: retrospect and prospects (keynote lecture)**

John Papadopoulos

19.00 – 20.00 Reception

20.00 – 22.00 Dinner at Café van Puffelen (for speakers and poster presenters)

### FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>

Venue: Nina van Leerzaal of the Allard Pierson Museum

The **Poster Session** will be held during coffee and lunch breaks, when authors will have the opportunity to illustrate their work in an informal atmosphere.

From 08.45 Registration for speakers and participants

09.15 – 09.40 **Introduction to the project**

Vladimir Stissi

#### SESSION 1: EXPLORING ISLAND INTERACTIONS THROUGH SURVEY

Chair: Gert Jan van Wijngaarden

09.40 – 09.45 Introduction to the topic and speakers (chair)

09.45 – 10.15 **Multi-scalar communities and intra-island exchanges: the case study of Zakynthos**

Nienke Pieters

10.15 – 10.45 **In and out of the stream: the view from Keros on shifting island interactions within the Bronze Age Cyclades**

Jill Hilditch

10.45 – 11.15 **Response paper**

Jan Paul Crielaard

11.15 – 11.35 **Discussion**

11.35 – 11.55 – Coffee break

SESSION 2: TRAVELLING TECHNOLOGIES

Chair: Jill Hilditch

11.55 – 12.00 Introduction to the topic and speakers (chair)

12.00 – 12.30 **Theorizing with travelling technologies**

Jeltsje Stobbe

12.30 – 13.00 **'Pots = Potters': Translocal and travelling technologies in Early Iron Age**

**Halos (Thessaly)**

Štěpán Růckl

13.00 – 13.30 **Response paper**

Valentine Roux

13.30 – 13.50 **Discussion**

13.50 – 15.30 – Lunch break

SESSION 3: CERAMIC STANDARDISATION

Chair: Marijke Gnade

15.30 – 15.35 Introduction to the topic and speakers (chair)

15.35 – 16.05 **Standardisation in handmade pottery: some consideration from south-western Balkans**

Maja Gori

16.05 – 17.35 **From standard pots to potters' standards. Tracing pottery production in Archaic Satricum (6th – 4th BC)**

Martina Revello Lami

17.35 – 18.05 **Response paper**

Giovanna Bagnasco Gianni

18.05 – 18.25 **Discussion**

18.30 – Reception at the Amsterdam Academic Club

**SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

*Venue: Doelenzaal, University Library (Singel 425)*

SESSION 4: INTEGRATED APPROACHES

Chair: Maja Gori

10.00 – 10.05 Introduction to the topic and speakers (chair)

10.05 – 10.35 **Tracing provenance and production technology; an integrated approach to the study of Black Gloss pottery from the Hellenistic votive deposit in Satricum (Italy)**

Muriel Louwaard

10.35 – 11.05 **What's cooking? A case study on the heterogeneity of cookware from Hellenistic Halos, Thessaly (Greece)**

Colette Beestman-Kruijshaar

11.05 – 11.35 **Response paper**

Kostalena Michelaki

11.35 – 11.55 **Discussion**

11.55 – 12.20 – Coffee break

SESSION 5: BETWEEN PAST AND FUTURE APPROACHES TO POTTERY

Chair: Gert Jan van Wijngaarden

12.20 – 12.40 **Synthesis of results**

Vladimir Stissi

12.40 – 13.10 **Valorisation of ceramic analysis: (re)presenting the past at the site of Satricum**

Marijke Gnade

13.10 – 13.40 **Why survey projects cannot do without pottery specialists**

Peter Attema

13.40 – 13.45 **Introduction to final discussion**

John Papadopoulos

13.45 – 14.25 **Final discussion**

14.25 – 14.30 **Closing remarks**

Vladimir Stissi

14.30 – Lunch at Kapitein Zeppos (for speakers and poster presenters)



## Abstracts

### SESSION 1: EXPLORING ISLAND INTERACTIONS THROUGH SURVEY

This session focuses on two diachronic survey projects within Greece to explore the relationship between the ceramic record and the social interactions of past island communities. The 'community' or group is conceived as a bridge between micro-scale processes of material culture production and the broader regional scale in which the mobility of people, objects and ideas is often considered. Patterns in the ceramic data will be explicitly discussed with regards to the construction of past communities, as well as a means to maximise the amount of meaningful information that can be extracted from survey assemblages to assess social interactions at multiple scales of analysis.

#### **Multi-scalar communities and intra-island exchanges: the case study of Zakynthos**

Nienke Pieters

The study of ancient societies on different scales of interaction is still highly problematic in archaeology. There appears to be a conceptual gap between the macro level of social systems on the one hand and face-to-face, interpersonal interactions on the other. The in-between social and geometric meso-scale in social interaction is often not addressed and less well understood. In this paper, an attempt is made to investigate social interaction on the meso scale, by using the concept of community, and to assess interaction with macro scale dynamics. The paper is based on pottery evidence from a distributional survey data set of the Zakynthos Archaeology Project (ZAP), which is used to study diachronic and multi-scalar patterns in pottery production, exchange and consumption on the island of Zakynthos in Greece. The research explicitly addresses the data at local (community) micro-regional (research area) and regional (island) levels. The pottery data, with specific regard to fabric characteristics, enables the study of patterns in preferences for clay paste recipes, pot shapes and decorative patterns held by local communities through time. The study of shared community preferences will help to understand social interaction at wider intra-island and off-island macro scales.

#### **In and out of the stream: the view from Keros on shifting island interactions within the Cyclades**

Jill Hilditch

The exceptional nature of Kavos and the great importance of the settlement at Dhaskalio have been confirmed as a result of the recent excavations between 2006-2008. Yet, most interpretations of Dhaskalio Kavos refer to external relations, whether in terms of trading systems or in terms of the regional role of

the sanctuary. As a result, many important questions remained for contextualising the oldest maritime sanctuary in the Aegean. Given the unusual character of the EC ceramic assemblage at Dhaskalio-Kavos, which is probably imported in its entirety, does a wider survey of the island of Keros indicate a potentially unknown local source for ceramic production? Do settlement or activity areas across the island reflect the same intensity or range of connections within the Keros triangle region (the neighbouring islands of Naxos, Ios and Amorgos) as displayed at Dhaskalio Kavos? Can the function of sites, as interpreted through the ceramic assemblage, within the vicinity of Dhaskalio Kavos shed light on the wider context for such an unusual activity area?

To this end, a pedestrian survey of Keros was carried out over a twelve-week period between 2012-13, directed by Prof Renfrew from the University of Cambridge, and Dr Marthari and Mrs Dellaoporta of the Archaeological Service of the Greek Ministry of Culture. This paper will outline the survey from a ceramic perspective, focusing on the collection methodology and data recording, and will discuss how our aims and procedures have impacted upon the archaeological data we have recorded and, therefore, the interpretations we have reached so far. The ceramic methodology, and expected dataset, was considered from the outset of the survey and was devised in line with the field methodology and with previous approaches to ceramic finds on Aegean surveys in mind. In particular, the methodology draws from studies that emphasise a fabric approach to ceramic survey assemblages, such as Jenny Moody's work on the Sphakia Survey and Evangelia Kiriati's on the Kythera Survey. The integration of macroscopic fabric analysis within ceramic survey methodology made explicit an awareness that compositional features may serve as reliable dating indicators. This project seeks to go further with this analysis and investigate if the complex relationship between particular technological parameters (wall thickness, coarseness, degree of firing, degree of surface preservation and production technique macrotraces) not only explains persistence of particular periods within the landscape but may also be used to assign broad chronological distinctions to traditionally non-diagnostic sherds deriving from intensive collection. In line with a key concept from the NPAP project, a digital database was a fundamental tool for organising and accessing the information generated through the collection of ceramic material and provides the 'backbone' for the results and interpretations presented in this paper.

## SESSION 2: TRAVELLING TECHNOLOGIES

This session is about Travelling Technologies. And this is why.

NPAP was set up to bring together young pottery scholars. Scholars based in various areas and research traditions of the Mediterranean, to find out where their objects of study meet, or do not meet at all. A large part of this collaborative exercise has been the exploration of shared methodologies, especially the development of a shared method for materials analysis. When Štěpán (Halos) and Jeltsje (Satricum) started to discuss their research on Iron Age pottery

assemblages from Greece and Italy, they were both interested in studying technological analysis. Inspired by the work of Valentine Roux and others, they dived into a new world of chaînes opératoires, shaping techniques and social agencies. Štěpán moved in the direction of experimental archaeology, Jeltsje in the direction of science & technology studies. Nonetheless, a conversation kept going, especially on how to tell stories on ancient technologies of the past in the present, and how this was related to methodologies used, i.e. what kind of methodology involved what kind of knowledge production.

The current session is a temporary wrapping up of what has been discussed over the years, and we use the opportunity to engage with a topic that interests us both: how do technologies travel. Do communities of practice just share knowledge around them, or do potters actually migrate. But also, what does the travelling, and what is useful to use (or less useful) out of the archaeological toolkit to study such movement inbetween communities of practice. By providing two papers on technologies of the past, one an empirical case-study and the other a theoretical exercise, we hope to contribute to discussing the possibilities for analysis when a study of the pottery of a particular site draws in relations to 'elsewhere'.

### **Theorising with Travelling Technologies**

Jeltsje Stobbe

The topic of this paper is travelling technologies, how archaeology can theorise with and about them. Studying travelling technologies often involves the use of a scaled world, whether this concerns scales running from particles to pots or from particular localities to structural globalities. Scales are good, as they facilitate order, origin and orientation. Nonetheless, they also have some downsides that may be inconvenient for the study of something that travels 'inbetween spaces' and makes relations in a more fluid way than fixed scales allow for. Alternative ways of engaging with something that travels are emerging in archaeology, such as those that take into account different scales of analysis simultaneously, or those that do away with scales altogether by focusing on relational networks where mobility itself has become the main concern. Although relational methodologies seem to provide a promising field to explore for archaeology, they have remained very much on the level of theoretical manifesto. Getting them on the level of sherds and sites therefore may need some additional theoretical figures that are more close to archaeological practice. This paper will analyze such alternatives, and thereby hopefully provide some food for thought on engaging with travelling technologies.

### **'Pots = Potters': Translocal and travelling technologies in Early Iron Age Halos (Thessaly)**

Štěpán Růckl



In stark contrast to the Bronze Age period, technology of ceramic production is a heavily understudied topic within the context of Early Iron Age Greece. With a few notable exceptions, the past scholarship has in a greater or lesser degree subscribed to the notion of ‘pots = people’ and interpreted the distribution of ceramic styles in terms of status and socio-economic power of the communities. In paraphrasing this equation, I argue that the idea of ‘pots = potters’, i.e. ceramic vessels viewed as the result of particular technological choices on the part of potters, has much greater interpretive potential.

In Protogeometric (1050-900 BC) Halos, and in Thessaly in general, two different decorative ceramic styles have been recognized: the wheelmade lustrous painted ‘Euboean koine’ style and the handmade matt-painted ‘Thessalian’ ware. By shifting the perspective from the grand Euboean narrative to the study of local potting practices, the analysis brings to the fore both the local and translocal character of ceramic production in Halos and, at the same time, contributes to the discussion of the spread of technological knowledge in Early Iron Age Greece. While the pottery in the ‘Euboean koine’ style turns out to be wheel-coiled (as opposed to wheel-thrown), with a long tradition of local production going back to the Late Bronze Age, the so called ‘Thessalian’ handmade pottery is a complete novelty in Thessaly, making its appearance not earlier than Middle Protogeometric period (c. 1000-950 BC). Since technological skill of craft production does not ‘move’ through space by itself but it is contingent on its carrier (in our case the potter), I will argue for the latter being the result of potters’ mobility.

### SESSION 3: CERAMIC STANDARDISATION

In archaeological and ethnographic literature, the concept of standardisation lies at the core of many different approaches to pottery analysis and has been central to the understanding of stylistic developments and relative chronologies, but more importantly, it has been used to explain broader phenomena involving cultural, social and economic changes in ancient societies.

Generally referred to as ‘the relative degree of homogeneity in the formal and material characteristics of pottery’ (Rice 1991), the definition of ceramic standardisation is, however, far from straightforward. On the one hand, it refers to the operational sequence of technological actions and choices through which that homogeneity is achieved. On the other hand, it also refers to a standardisation of usages (e.g. for food processing and storage, mundane and ritual consumption) embedded in a cultural system.

Uses of the concept of standardisation vary greatly according to the sphere one might wish to explore. Within the realm of production, for instance, ceramic standardisation has been used as key concept for assessing the scale of pottery making systems or increase in market demand, as well as for identifying the work of individual potters or ateliers. Consumption-wise, the notion of standardisation has been brought into play to define chrono-cultural sequences and to trace

“cultural trajectories” and exchange patterns on a site-level as well as on wider regional and interregional scales.

Despite the convergence of much scholarly attention on this topic, several issues related to the definition, interpretation and applicability of ceramic standardisation are still debated. The complex relationship with specialized production is undoubtedly one of the most vividly argued, together with the choice of analytic methods for scaling different degrees of standardisation.

By presenting a number of case studies from Southern Europe, stretching from the third millennium BCE to the Late Archaic period (4<sup>th</sup> c. BCE), this session will revise the many faces of ceramic standardisation in relationship with both production and consumption systems. In particular, contributions will focus on the association between standardized products and the emergence of craft-specialisation, the identification of artisans’ individuality and mobility, and the interaction between consumers demand and producers offer. In doing so, this session aims at assessing the significance of ceramic standardisation in pottery studies, promoting a more nuanced understanding of this concept in relationship with material culture, economy and society.

### **Standardisation in handmade pottery: some consideration from south-western Balkans**

Maja Gori

This paper focuses on handmade pottery from levels 9-8-7 of Sovjan, a pile-dwelling settlement in south-eastern Albania. Levels 9-8-7 roughly date to the end of 3rd millennium BCE. Starting from the analysis of Sovjan’s pottery assemblage, standardisation in handmade pottery will be explored and related to the concept of type and its use in assessing intra and infra group variability.

### **From standard pots to potters’ standards. Tracing pottery production in Archaic Satricum (6th – 4th BC)**

Martina Revello Lami

The concept of standardisation has been mostly used in pottery studies as evidence of craft specialisation, an essential element for tracing the development of complex economic and social systems within past societies. The underlying assumption is that a ‘high degree of standardisation or homogeneity in vessel attributes reflects mass production, while relative heterogeneity is taken to indicate household production’ (Blackman 1993). However, modern scholarship has called into question this direct link, arguing against the strong hierarchical approach embedded in this model, which interprets craft production as a unilinear, evolutionary sequence from simple to complex. A number of ethnoarchaeological studies show that specialisation and standardisation are multidimensional phenomena that do not relate straightforwardly. On the one hand, specialisation encompasses many ways to organize craft production, which

may vary according to intensity (full-time/part-time) context (attached/independent potters) concentration (individual/nucleated) and scale (kin-based/factory workshop). On the other hand, ceramic standardisation may be influenced by numerous factors such as differences in raw material, potters' skills, market demand, manufacturing techniques, local traditions etc. In this paper, I examine some of the indexes more often used to infer modes of production, particularly the characteristics of metric, compositional and technological standardisation, using as case study the coarse ware pottery production at Satricum (Italy) from the Archaic to the Post-Archaic period. By applying analytical techniques from materials sciences and statistical analysis, I aim at emphasizing the importance of integrating different approaches to gain a better understanding of ceramic standardisation as well as shed light on the dynamic interactions between modes of production and more or less standardized products.

#### SESSION 4: INTEGRATED APPROACHES

This session is centred on the two PhD projects engaging with Hellenistic pottery (400-200 BCE) from Greece and Italy. A common issue in dealing with this 'historical' pottery has been the need to move beyond the traditional assumptions about the homogeneity in Hellenistic material culture, often said to be a reflection of historical processes, to better explain the observed variation in Hellenistic pottery practices. By taking into account the complete pottery assemblage instead of focussing on one or a few 'diagnostic' wares, and considering the consumer and production point of view, respectively, together the two projects offer exciting new perspectives for interpreting this horizon. An integrated methodology, involving steps of increasing sophistication, ranging from stylistic and typo-morphological analysis, to macroscopic and microscopic analysis, is shown as the key to gathering new information from Hellenistic pottery.

#### **Tracing Provenance and Production Technology; an Integrated Approach to the Study of Black Gloss Pottery from the Hellenistic Votive Deposit in Satricum (Italy)**

Muriel Louwaard

A common issue in studies of black gloss pottery in Central Italy is the difficulty to separate different productions from this large area. This is said to be due to a profound homogeneity in the material culture of the larger Etrusco-Latial area, often explained as a reflection of historical processes. As a result, ideas about the (intra-regional) circulation of pottery and local pottery practices in Central Italy are still rather general. In this paper, I argue that this issue is essentially related to a disconnection between the fixed ware categories used as analytical tools in black gloss classifications, and the flexible, multi-dimensional social and cultural

interpretations attached to the same pot in their original contexts of production, distribution and consumption.

By asking the basic question of how and why these pots were made as they were, we are seeking to determine the choices that were made in producing these pots. Using the so-called Hellenistic votive deposit found at the main sanctuary in Satricum as a case study, my discussion specifically draws together the preliminary results of the integrated typo-stylistic and technological analysis of two well established categories of black gloss pottery, which are considered as typical Central Italian productions: the so-called Gnathianising ware and stamped ware attributed to the Gruppo dei Piccoli Stampigli. By focusing on the production sequence of these ceramic wares from the votive deposit, and highlighting the different steps involved, I aim to demonstrate the potential of an integrated approach for investigating black gloss pottery, and value in considering the broader issues of provenance and production technology during the mid-Republican period of Central Italy.

### **What's cooking? A case study on the heterogeneity of cookware from Hellenistic Halos, Thessaly (Greece)**

Colette Beestman-Kruijshaar

The Halos cooking pots of both local and foreign production demonstrate a wide range in terms of morphology and technology, comprising unusual shapes as well as those complying to the Hellenistic 'pottery *koine*'. The study provides a detailed analysis of relationships between production, supply, and consumption of cookware in different domestic and funerary settings within this 'one period site', in comparison to other functional pottery categories. This way the relevance of the currently hot concept of Cuisine is put to the test for the enquiry into the social and cultural identity of the population of Hellenistic Halos.

## SESSION 5: BETWEEN PAST AND FUTURE APPROACHES TO POTTERY

### **Valorisation of ceramic analysis: (re)presenting the past at the site of Satricum**

Marijke Gnade

Archaeological field projects today are unthinkable without integrated approaches to the analysis of ceramic material which often constitutes the major part of the recovered finds. However, the collecting of data, their analysis and processing as well as the sharing of information and insights are mostly carried out in the seclusion of academic research circles accessible for a selective audience only. Our views on concrete activities in the past - how potters produced their pots, where they found their clays and temper - and our assumptions about the methods they used, are usually not known to the general audiences that visit the many archaeological exhibitions and museums. As an extension of the NPAP

project, a small section of the recently opened exhibition on Dutch archaeological research in ancient Satricum has been dedicated to these aspects of modern research. With it, we aim to inform our visitors about our research in the activities related to ancient pot making, and by doing so to engage them with production processes of the past.

### **Why survey projects cannot do without pottery specialists**

Peter Attema

In recent decades, ancient historians and archaeologists have started to formulate fundamental research questions about regional and supra-regional settlement dynamics, off-site archaeology, production and consumption patterns, economic and demographic cycles and standards of living. Apart from pottery from excavations, ceramic data from archaeological surveys play an increasingly relevant role here as the basic material to work with. It stands to reason that the extent to which survey data can contribute to studying such issues depends on the detail and quality of the analysis of the raw (ceramic) data. In this paper I will look at some examples that reveal the potential and challenges of working with survey pottery data to contribute to some current issues in the debate on ancient settlement and economy.



POSTERS SESSION

**Patterns in pottery production and consumption in the Pontine region, central Italy**

Barbara Borghers, Tymon de Haas & Gijs Tol

A number of pottery production sites, dated to the Republican and Imperial era, are known in the coastal part of the Pontine region, central Italy. More recent research in the area, within the framework of the Minor Centres project, has also identified evidence for local pottery production at several minor centres and small rural sites on inland locations, by combining non-invasive techniques such as field walking and geophysical prospection. Field walking recorded a number of pottery wasters on various sites, dated to the Republican and Imperial era, whereas geophysical prospection identified infrastructure related to potting activities, including kilns, clay storage tanks and pits. This project explores temporal patterns in the procurement of raw materials and technology for ceramic production and consumption, based on pottery recovered in regional survey.

In addressing these issues, a program of petrographic analysis was carried out on pottery from a wide range of production sites, varying in size and scale. The ceramic fabrics were studied and subsequently compared with pottery from consumption sites within the area. Thin section analysis has been used not only for the study of the ceramic samples, but also for the characterisation of landscape resources available in the Pontine region, which were collected during a clay prospection campaign.

The first results of the Minor Centres project show that pottery from regional surveys can be used to identify broad patterns of continuity and change in the exploitation of the landscape: whilst potters exploited the same landscape for suitable raw materials, they preferred different materials depending upon their technological traditions. These patterns seem to correlate with changes in settlements for a period in central Italian history that was undergoing major social, political and economic changes.

**Bronze Age pottery production. Consumption and exchange at an intra-site level: the case study of the Marmilla region, Central Sardinia (Italy)**

Maria Giuseppina Gradoli, Mauro Perra

The present work shows the first results of the petrographic study of 250 ceramics selected from seven domestic settlements located in the Marmilla micro-region, in west-central Sardinia and referring to the locally called 'Nuragic Culture' (Middle, 1700 - 1365 BC, Recent (1365 - 1200 BC) and Final Bronze Age, 1200 - 1020 BC). Its name derives from the 'nuraghe', a truncated high round tower built of large blocks of local rock set without mortar, and roofed by a corbelled vault.

Being the outcome of repetitive and mundane activities associated with everyday domestic life, this apparent homogeneous pottery is highly indicative of craft

activities, goods consumption and exchange practices occurring at an inter-site level. The study develops tracing, spatially and temporally, continuity and change in ceramics technology, using ceramic petrology, the concept of 'chaîne opératoire' (the sequence of technical and mental gestures that potters perform during the artefact manufacture, use, repair and discard), experimental archaeology, and the raw materials provenance study. The alternatives selected by artisans in their choice of raw materials (or 'technological styles') reflect an internalized understanding of the manufacturing traditions, acquired through a vertical intra-ethnic transmission of knowledge, passed on from one generation to the next.

The great variety of fabric groups found in the region (some of which have no corresponding parental rocks, thus suggesting exchanged items) leads to the preliminary conclusion that the exterior homogeneity in vessel form, surface treatment, and firing condition is due, in the area, to extensive social networks and a shared 'manufacturing technology'.

### **The potentials and limitations of a technological approach to ceramic survey assemblages**

Ayla Krijnen

There is no doubt that surface surveys have made a significant contribution to archaeology in the last few decades. The growing number of systematic surveys, such as those in the Aegean, has increased our understanding of past societies dramatically. Pottery has been used extensively by people in the past and, once fired, clay is extremely resistant to weathering processes. It is therefore hardly surprising that the majority of the collected artifacts during a surface survey are ceramics. Although issues relating to the dating of survey ceramics have been addressed by various scholars, one obvious problem has been left largely untouched, namely that of the very low percentage of datable sherds in a survey. In this poster, further possibilities to approaching ceramics collected during surface surveys are explored. The study focuses on the correlations between technological parameters of pottery as reliable indicators for broad chronological distinctions in survey assemblages. Basic technological features of sherds such as wall thickness, coarseness, firing temperature and weathering will be used to test possible correlations between these aspects of pottery and their chronology. A technological ceramic analysis is not restricted to the examination of a few highly diagnostic pieces but allows one to include all sherds within the collected dataset. The ceramic data collected during the Keros Island Survey (2012-2013) will serve as a case study in the research. The wide range of chronological periods present on the island offers a great opportunity to assess technological development of pottery with respect to chronology.

The results of the systematic examination of the variables in exploratory tests as well as in statistical tests (chi-square, FET, Cramer's V) were, in almost every case, very positive (<99.9% confidence level). This demonstrates the great potential of technological variables as broad chronological indicators in ceramic survey assemblages.

### **Foreign Potters, Local Clays: tracing Aeginetan potters in Late Bronze Age Lefkandi and other sites in Central Greece**

Bartłomiej Lis, Štěpán Růckl

Based on the idiosyncratic character of Aeginetan potting tradition, a group of locally made cooking pots in 12th century BC levels at Lefkandi and other sites in Central Greece (Pefkakia, Agrielia) has been identified by the authors as products of Aeginetan potters working outside of the island. The macroscopic analysis of technological features was followed by a petrographic study that aimed to address the question of their provenance and to elucidate the potters' choices related to clay collection, preparation, and firing. Local wheel made vessels of similar shape and function, as well as genuine Aeginetan imports, have been sampled to serve as control groups. In this poster, we would like to present preliminary results of the petrographic analysis of this material, concentrating on the site of Lefkandi. We were able to confirm the non-Aeginetan provenance of the pottery we consider to be the products of Aeginetan potters. Minerals and rock fragments identified in the clay matrix are compatible with local geology, and are similar to those contained in the local control group. However, the majority of pots associated with mobile Aeginetan potters falls into a single fabric group, which is different from fabric groups represented by material selected as control group. This observation likely reflects the use of different clay source within the same area and/or different approach to paste preparation by the Aeginetan potter(s).

### **Reconceptualizing the Greek countryside: a material culture perspective**

Anna Meens

The research I just started attempts to bring the countryside into focus, and more specifically the people who were living there. Over the years much survey pottery has been collected in various parts of Greece and by taking a comparative approach I think it will be possible to get a better understanding of who is living there in the Classical and Early Hellenistic period. The many sites that are scattered over the landscape in this period (more than in any other period) actually represent the homes of up to 25% of the population of a polis, people that have thus far largely escaped our attention. They have been separated from the rest of the population due to ancient and modern thought, that juxtaposes the urban and rural areas, whereas in reality both areas were interwoven; therefore this study is also an attempt at reintegration.

The domestic assemblages from the countryside will be classified and compared. The comparison is twofold; the rural pottery assemblage will be contrasted to the urban assemblage from the same region, but we can also compare the different assemblages trans regionally. Additionally, I will take excavated assemblages into account next to the survey pottery.



I selected seven regions for which I wish to undertake this analysis, all intensively surveyed and displaying various kinds of organization in the countryside and different levels of historical knowledge. The assemblages from the various regions will be united in one large database. The classification and quantification will focus on three pottery characteristics; function, ware and provenance. Furthermore, issues of sample size as well as recognition and classification will be explored in this synthesizing approach.

The rural consumption patterns might shed light on household behavior, taste, the wealth of a household and access to markets. This in turn, can contribute to the debate about the living conditions and status of the households living in the countryside, and how they participated in the wider Classical and Hellenistic Greek world.

### **Palace of Minos – Politics of Pithos: Stories about storage jars, archaeologists and (inter)national politics in the late 19th century.**

Samantha Ximeri

This poster will unravel the modern biographies of storage jars (pithoi) as objects with accumulated post-excavation histories, revealing the complex relationship between ideologies, politics and archaeology. By using the first finds of pithoi from the Palace of Knossos as a case study, I will illustrate how a particular type of pottery acted as a means to promote political and ideological, national and international agendas.

During the winter of 1878- 1879, a Cretan antiquarian and merchant appropriately named Minos Kalokairinos, who was determined to find proof of the legendary King Minos's reign, discovered twelve intact pithoi on the site that was later identified as the Palace of Knossos. At that time, Crete was under Ottoman rule and the excavations were abruptly brought to an end. This end, however, was also a beginning for the different modern biographies of pithoi.

Kalokairinos donated some of the pithoi to European museums, and in times when European nations sought their historic roots on European grounds, these objects promoted the idea of Crete as the 'promised land'. In the 'Battle of Knossos' renowned archaeologists like H. Schliemann struggled for permission to excavate at the site, with Sir Arthur Evans eventually triumphing and beginning excavations in 1900.

Some of the pithoi of Kalokairinos were sent to Greece and one was a personal gift to King Constantine. Others were kept in Crete and became part of the first main collection of the Archaeological Museum in Heraklion. The remaining pieces were kept in Kalokairinos's personal collection and were destroyed during the uprising of the local population against the Ottoman authorities in 1898. In this way, pithoi became entangled in narratives of the island's struggle for national identity and freedom.

In many respects, the modern biographies of the pithoi are intertwined with political and conceptual struggles over the position of the island in Greek and European politics and culture. The pithoi further mark the beginning of Cretan

archaeology, and establish an enduring relationship between a specific vessel type and a popular disciplinary field.

### **From the sorting table to the web: The NPAP database**

Jitte Waagen, Ivan Kisjes

The research questions of the New Perspectives on Ancient Pottery project involved the study of large assemblages of ceramic finds in many different ways, as well as comparisons between materials of different periods from several sites. We knew of no existing database which could cope with such a wide-ranging research, so we decided to develop a new one.

The new database was planned to be flexible and universally applicable, as well as designed to respond to a series of essentials for the project research.

One of them was facilitating the entering of large amount of information of either batches of objects, as well as individual artefacts (sherds and pots) coming from both both excavations and field surveys. Also, the database was designed to provide for the recording of all types of ceramic objects, and not exclusively potsherds, since this proved essential for addressing specific research questions, especially those concerning the manufacturing process. Accordingly, we created a general descriptive framework for the properties of ceramics. This enables comparison between different objects, as well as between similar objects of different date or geographic origin. For our purposes, the same terminology should apply to the surface treatment of for example a figurine from Hellenistic Halos in Thessaly, Greece, and the surface treatment of Archaic pottery from Satricum, Lazio, Italy. The descriptive framework was also designed to include a solution to deal with biases, uncertainty and the ambiguity of empty fields (is information unknown or simply not recorded?). Moreover, quickly processing substantial amounts of material demanded that the recording interface and its functions are optimized for fast entry.

Finally, both the required multi-user setup of a database fit to store data of many projects requires and the ambition to be able to provide wide access to its contents through an open and user friendly interface resulted in the decision to create an online web-environment for the database: the NPAP research data portal.



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