

**POTTERY TECHNOLOGIES AND
SOCIOCULTURAL CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN THE AEGEAN AND
ANATOLIA DURING THE 3rd
MILLENNIUM BC**

Abstracts

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**CRAFTY CONNECTIONS, DISCOURSES OF DIFFERENCE. EXPLORING AND EXPLAINING RELATIONS
BETWEEN CRETE AND ANATOLIA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BRONZE AGE (FN–EB I)**

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The beginning of the third millennium BC in Crete is marked by a series of profound changes in the technology, typology, production, distribution and consumption of pottery. Stratigraphically these changes provided the pioneers of Aegean archaeology with an obvious point at which to introduce a subdivision of the deep span of prehistory and hence the beginning of the period we call the ‘Bronze Age’ acquired material definition. Ever since researchers have wrestled with the question of what caused these ceramic changes and what they might tell us about the emergence of more complex societies in the island during the third millennium BC? In general, debate has polarised into two opposing camps. In the one these changes are viewed as initiated by a (mass) migration of outsiders into the island, their origins variously placed in Anatolia, the Levant and Egypt. In the other they result primarily from internally-driven social processes? In the arguments offered back and forth the use (and abuse) of ceramic typology has been a recurring and prominent theme, illustrating the equivocal nature of such data when treated in isolation. In recent decades, however, the application of integrated ceramic characterisation to assemblages of pottery of EB I and, most recently, FN date has offered a means of moving beyond this impasse and towards a more detailed and nuanced understanding of connectivity during this crucial period in Aegean prehistory. This paper will use current ceramic data (technological, typological, contextual) to explore relations between Crete and Western Anatolia during the fourth and early third millennia BC. How did connectivity develop and change? What did connectivity actually mean to the communities involved? What drove people to seek out distant connections? What mechanisms sustained links between the two regions and, ultimately, how might we now explain the ceramic changes that mark the beginning of the EBA?

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VARIOUS EBA POTTERY WORKSHOPS AROUND PERGAMON?

A preliminary model for pottery production in the early 3rd millennium BC based on archaeological-archaeometrical studies.

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A survey project focussing on prehistory in the region of the antique city of Pergamon (Western Anatolia) between 2008 and 2013 revealed a deep new insight into the prehistory of the Bakırçay Valley and its hinterland. This contribution will present first results of archaeometrical pottery studies including the discussion of a preliminary model for pottery production in the early 3rd millennium BCE.

A quite homogeneous group of EBA pottery by means of typology and macroscopical examination of wares and fabrics from different sites show potential differing origins by NAA. Altogether 112 pottery fragments stemming from 12 sites in the surroundings of Pergamon were examined with Neutron Activation Analysis. The analysis was conducted by H. Mommsen at the University of Bonn between 2011 and 2014. As a result several new chemical groups became apparent with four main groups emerging including 63 samples.

One group contains only samples from the Gümüşova valley and most probably the potters' quarter was situated in the vicinity. The production appears continuously active from the Chalcolithic period until the Early Bronze Age. Two groups show a wider spatial distribution. However the location of two potential pottery workshops can be estimated to be in the lower Kaikos valley/the northern Kane peninsula and in the western Kaikos valley respectively. The fourth group seems to be restricted to the north-eastern part of the Kaikos valley and assembles pieces from the Chalcolithic period until - predominantly - the Late Bronze Age.

Imports are so far only recognizable in later periods, such as specimens from the northern Peloponnese and Troy.

It can be preliminary stated that there are pottery workshops in the region of Pergamon producing over a long period using the same clay sources and/or same recipes on the one hand. On the other hand it appears that some workshops were only active in a specific period, also specialized products are hardly detectable. Presumably these workshops did not trade their products over long distances, but satisfy the local needs. In general, imports were also rare in Early Bronze Age.

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MARBLE-TEMPERED WARE IN THIRD MILLENNIUM BCE ANATOLIA

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Petrographic analyses performed on the Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age 1 domestic ceramic assemblages from Çukuriçi Höyük allowed to recognize the intentional manipulation of selected clay pastes with marble temper. The marble originates from at least two different quarries or deposits that can be traced back to the immediate surroundings of Ephesos as comparable studies, for example on the altars in the Artemision, were able to highlight. For most of the specimens under consideration the marble had been crushed to a very coarse grain size. Less often no marble fragments are observable but rather individual calcite particles appear, potentially being a result of the sieving of crushed marble leaving only the fine fraction and as such a marble powder to add to the clay.

Calcite tempering is a well-known phenomenon in the Bronze Age Eastern Aegean, particularly in the Cyclades. It will be explored if there is any evident connection between the practice of using synchronically marble as tempering material in Western Anatolia and the Cyclades. Cultural encounters need to be tested, but at the same time this choice might also be considered as being based on the availability of the raw material or on possible functional benefits that vessels might gain. There is an obvious preference for pithoi being manufactured of the coarse marble-tempered clay, firing to a black colour and being defined by an extraordinary hardness. In contrast, the marble powder (calcite) had been utilized for the fabrication of culinary wares. Several more socio-cultural and technological explanatory models for the use of marble-temper in ceramic production will be presented.

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FUNCTION AND TECHNOLOGY.

A pottery assemblage from an EBA house at Çukuriçi Höyük

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The interpretation of a vessels' specific use can be based on various analytical components, like use-wear and residue analysis, particular ceramic fabrics and shapes, and, equally important, its archaeological context. This contribution will present contextual studies by discussing a pottery assemblage of one house at Çukuriçi Höyük in EBA 1 to discuss technology and function. Intensive systematic investigations have been taking place at the tell, which is located on the central Aegean Anatolian coast in Western Turkey, since 2007 (current ERC project 263339). The excavations revealed two settlement phases in EBA 1 (2900–2750 calBC), with clear specialization of early metal production manifested in around 50 ovens/metal workshops. The role of local pottery production and its development through different millennia is under study in an additional project ongoing since 2013 (FWF project P 25825).

The pottery of the EBA 1 period represents a homogeneous spectrum at first sight without crucial developments or changes during around 250 years (2900–2750 calBC). On the one hand, the vessels are hand-made in a manageable variety of shapes, types and variations, and surface decoration is generally rare. On the other hand, a large variety of ceramic wares have been identified macroscopically, while fabrics have been tested by petrographic analysis. These are the basis for technological and functional interpretations of Çukuriçi Höyük ceramics. The critical combination and comparison of these methods will be discussed in our case study with focus on several questions:

- Is there a pattern of combining particular pottery shapes and wares and fabrics?
- Are function and technology connected in the local EBA pottery production?
- Finally, is there local pottery production with specialized products focused on function?

The potential interaction between technology and function discussed in our case study is expected to provide new data for further socio-cultural interpretation of this particular metallurgical community.

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**URBANISM, NETWORKS, AND THE DYNAMICS OF POTTERY PRODUCTION AND USE IN THE
KONYA PLAIN OF SOUTH CENTRAL ANATOLIA, TURKEY**

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The Konya Plain of central Anatolia represents one of the most important regions for investigating the origins of urban societies, as witnessed by the large nucleated settlement of Çatalhöyük during the Neolithic and the later emergence of true urban sites during the EBA. However, while much is known of Çatalhöyük's early development less is understood of its final phases and its regional role and interconnections, or the impact that long distance trade routes that developed in the EBA may have had on the Konya Plain. In order to address these questions of local diachronic developments, and assess the varying extent to which long distance exchange may have influenced the Konya Plain, the Fitch Laboratory of the British School at Athens, in collaboration with the University of Liverpool, has recently initiated a detailed science-based study of pottery production, circulation and technology transfer, using a range of analytical techniques and material from over 20 sites in the Konya Plain.

This presentation will outline the aims of this ongoing project, together with a presentation of the preliminary findings. It is hoped that the results from this project may provide significant information as to the changing extent and influence of trade networks between central and western Anatolia and the Aegean during the Chalcolithic and EBA.

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**THE CHIOS-ÇESME STRAIT: CERAMIC EVIDENCE FOR INTERACTION
AROUND THE BEGINNING OF THE EARLY BRONZE AGE**

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Many authors have recognized the potential Emporio (Chios) holds for our understanding of the Eastern Aegean Neolithic. Unfortunately, the purely typological work done thus far puts limits on the questions that we want to see answered today. Therefore a total restudy of the Neolithic ceramic assemblages of Emporio, using a total integrated characterization, has been undertaken to try and reach a more complete understanding of how Neolithic communities operated and interacted in the Eastern Aegean. This approach integrates technology and provenance with existing typologies of form and finish in order to extend characterization beyond the object to the human practices in which pottery is implicated. The results of this approach have enabled a revision of the Final Neolithic sequence (3300-3000 BC) at Emporio and led to the identification of several locations on the island, previously considered empty, where communities were involved in pottery production. It became possible to track interactions between communities, on Chios, but especially on the Anatolian coast. These proved to be long-lived, intense and paint a picture of a well-developed seascape around the Chios-Çesme strait, through which objects and ideas were exchanged and developed.

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EXPLORING THE HERAION (SAMOS) CERAMIC TECHNOLOGICAL TRADITION: PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM AN INTEGRATED ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE EARLY BRONZE AGE POTTERY

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Excavations conducted (2009–2013) at the ‘proto-urban’ island settlement of Heraion, Samos have revealed five successive architectural phases dating to the EB I–II-early periods (ca. 3000–2500 BC). These investigations uncovered an unknown part of the settlement, both chronologically and spatially, in the area north of the Sacred Road, indications of which came to light in 1981 beneath the Late Roman settlement but still remain largely unpublished. The site under examination offers great potential for providing new insights into East Aegean Early Bronze Age chronology, in particular the EB I–II, in the light of well-stratified pottery assemblages. This study constitutes the first large-scale attempt to characterize contextually, technologically, and diachronically the pottery of the Heraion, extending a pilot petrographic analysis of samples dating to the late 3rd millennium BC (EB II late– III). The ongoing research combines macroscopic and microscopic analytical methods, as well as morphological/typological/stylistic observations, drawing comparanda from published sites within the East Aegean/western Anatolian region. Although preliminary, the results of this study will provide new data on the chronology, technology, and provenance of pottery from the Samian Heraion, thus leading to a better understanding of the settlement's sociocultural developments.

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**EH II POTTERY FROM MIDEA IN THE ARGOLID:
SHAPES AND FABRICS POINTING TO SPECIAL USE AND IMPORT**

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In the course of the project “Midea, a settlement in the Argolid, from the Late Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age Periods” funded by the Austrian Science Fund, about 2000 pottery fragments dating to Early Helladic II have been recorded statistically in terms of their shape, fabric and surface treatment. At the same time Clare Burke and Peter Day have undertaken petrographic and chemical analyses of 80 selected EH II fragments. They were able to distinguish a variety of fabrics some of them most probably belonging to pottery imported from outside the Argolid. Based on macroscopic study of the material and by comparing petrographic groups with these macroscopic observations the bulk of EH II pottery fragments was assigned to macroscopically defined fabrics. Examining the pottery in terms of shape and fabric showed that certain fabrics were preferably used for certain shapes, this suggests that there is a link between the fabric choice and the intended use of the vessel. Furthermore, certain shapes allocated to fabrics identified as imports point to the fact that certain vessel forms were preferably imported. Otherwise, it was observed that several of the fragments identified as imports clearly differ typologically from those fragments which were identified as local products. Therefore by the typology of shapes developed in this project it is possible to confirm that vessels of petrographically clearly distinguishable fabrics come from different workshops which were most probably situated in different regions.

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CRAFTING PRACTICES AND CONSUMPTION CHOICES: NEOLITHIC – EARLY HELLADIC II CERAMIC PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION, MIDEA, MAINLAND GREECE

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This paper will discuss some of the key results from microscopic, microstructural and chemical analysis undertaken on LN–EHII ceramic material from the site of Midea.

Through examination of the petrological and technological variability present at Midea, our results suggest both continuity and significant changes in technological practice, distribution trends and consumption choices over time.

The use of grog temper, common in the Final Neolithic, is seen to decline during the Early Bronze Age. At the same time a fabric characterised by sandstone and low grade metamorphic rocks, thought to originate in the Asine area indicates the products of a major centre of production. Other fabrics, perhaps representing production locations in the western Argive Plain are discussed, as are products from outside the region.

Significant changes are presented, not only in specific technological choices, but also in the distribution of vessels from particular production centres, reflecting increased interaction between communities in the Argolid and Corinthia over time.

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SOCIAL CHANGE – CULTURAL CHANGE – TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE.

Archaeological studies and scientific analyses of early Aeginetan pottery

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Assumed Aeginetan pottery at various sites in southern and middle Greece was subject of scientific research since the first analyses of M. Farnsworth in the 60ies and 70ies of the 20th century. Within the last 15 years the “Aeginetan Ware” has been detailed characterized not only by archaeological studies concerning the typological and stylistical classification but also by different mineralogical and chemical analyses. The comprehensive studies of W. Gauss and E. Kiriati (Gauss and Kiriati 2011) are focused on the investigation of clay sources at Aegina and on EH III to LH pottery from Kolonna. The archaeological and scientific definition includes both local Aeginetan fabrics and a considerable diversity of nonlocal imported samples. Just a few fragments of EH II pottery and tiles were added as a reference group.

Particular technological studies of EH II pottery has been undertaken by C. Shriner, J. Brophy, G. Christidis and H. Murray (see www.indiana.edu/~sava/). They analysed sherds of Kolonna II and III contexts in order to study possible technological changes in ceramic production at the transition of EH II to EH III, when a stylistical and typological change of the material artefacts is evident (cf. Lerna III/IV).

As E. Kiriati (Gauss and Kiriati 2011) pointed out, the two local fabrics attested within the EH II material of Kolonna correspond broadly to the later Aeginetan fabric types (esp. EH III-LH). That reflects that they used similar clay types of raw material (see investigations of possible clay sources by Gauss and Kiriati 2011 and by Shriner et al. forthcoming), but there are variations in the firing colour, in the texture and composition. The preparation of the clay pastes and the firing conditions seemed to have been less standardised compared to the following periods.

The cultural change at the transition of EH II and EH III is reflected in the technological change of the pottery production. There is no evidence for an abrupt change or total innovation. The archaeological and the scientific studies showed that the gradual process of change started at the end of the EH II period (Kolonna III). Some elements were used contemporary and less continuously.

At present there are no systematic analyses of pottery of the Neolithic and EH I periods at Kolonna (called Kolonna I). Between Kolonna I and the developed EH II phase Kolonna II is a gap in the settlement sequence. Both phases, before and afterwards, show the typical ceramic and material variety of Southern Greece. Whether the gap comes along with a technological change will be a subject of future research.

In (Middle-) Late Neolithic times Aegina has certainly been already a regional centre for ceramic production and part of an early network of exchange at least within the surrounding regions. At many sites in NE Peloponnese and central mainland Greece nonlocal pottery with volcanic rocks was identified (Corycian Cave in Phocis, Chaironeia in Boeotia, Kitsos Cave and Euripides Cave in Salamis, Franchthi Cave, probably Lerna and Halielidis). The provenance of the mostly dark burnished pottery has been assumed in the Saronic Gulf and more precisely at Aegina, but since reference material from Aegina/Kolonna is lacking, it cannot be proved at present.

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DISTINCTIVE FORMS, FAMILIAR TECHNOLOGIES: ANATOLIANISING TYPES AND AEGEAN TRADITIONS IN THE CERAMICS OF LATE EBII

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In the late EB II Aegean, the Kastri Group has been taken to represent the extension of ‘influence’ from Anatolian cultures over an area of the Cycladic islands and coastal Greek Mainland, perhaps even the movement of population to accompany the stylistic traits. In a period of change thought of as unstable, with shifts in site location and frequent fortification of settlements, material culture has been taken to represent the broad impact of the ‘other’.

The study of ceramic assemblages at two key sites of the late EBII, Akrotiri on Thera and Ayia Irini on Kea, has suggested a rather different picture. The first aspect is the contextualisation of Anatolianising shapes present within the broader ceramic assemblages. After all, the ‘Kastri’ shapes are only part of a more varied whole. Macroscopic fabric and petrographic study highlights the extensive movement of pottery, perhaps epitomised by the large numbers of collared jars, which seem to have been used in the transportation of commodities. A large number of specific production centres for the vessels has been identified, representing the movement of goods from the Mainland, across the Cycladic islands to Crete. This is certainly an aspect of this period which tends not to be highlighted.

Considering the focus of most studies of this period, the Anatolianising portion of the assemblage, it is suggested that, through comparison with pottery of the previous early EBII, new shapes are introduced into otherwise essentially unchanged ‘ways of doing’. Raw material choice and manipulation, even firing practices, representing strong local traditions seem to continue, whilst incorporating the new forms.

Thus, Kastri Group pottery is discussed as a set of objects with specific form produced in long-lived ceramic traditions in the Aegean area. The implications of such a combination of observed change and continuity in technological practice are considered, in the context of a period which saw more general movement of goods, technologies and perhaps people.

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EXPLORING LOCAL AND ANATOLIANISING TRADITIONS ACROSS BOEOTIA IN LATE EHII

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The paper brings together evidence accumulated over time at the Fitch Laboratory, in the context of research undertaken in association with three Boeotian sites: Thebes, Orchomenos and more recently Latoufi. It mainly presents the integrated typological and analytical research carried out on two contemporary late EH II pottery assemblages excavated at Latoufi and Thebes, sites located in NW and SE Boeotia, respectively. Furthermore, it exploits valuable comparative information on Orchomenos pottery, admittedly of a later (MH) date, and relevant geological prospection and sampling.

Based on typological criteria, two coexisting ceramic traditions were identified at each of the two late EHII assemblages:

- a predominant one, including mainly monochrome slipped pots of a local style, such as basins with T-rims, shallow bowls with incurved rims, amphoras and hydrias, two-handled tankards, cooking pots and pithoi, and
- another one of a so-called ‘anatolianising’ style, represented by a much smaller number of pots associated with a much limited number of types consisting mainly of monochrome slipped eating and drinking vessels, such as the well-known Trojan-type cups, the shallow bowls with plain rims and a particular type of a small two-handled cup.

Studying these assemblages, our aim has been to reconstruct pottery technology and provenance, in order to understand the wider context of production, supply and circulation within Boeotia, putting emphasis on the so-called ‘anatolianisation’ phenomenon. To accomplish this, we have complemented the detailed macroscopic examination of pottery with petrographic analysis and re-firing tests, combined with geological prospection and sampling in the wider area for a comparative characterization of the locally available raw materials for pottery manufacture.

Concerning pottery production and local fabrics overall in Boeotia, two distinct mineralogical profiles have been identified so far corresponding to two discreet geographical areas: one associated with NW Boeotia, and the other with SE Boeotia. There seems to be clear evidence for circulation of pottery within the region, since pots associated with NW Boeotia have been identified in Thebes and vessels made in the assumed Theban fabrics have been identified at Latoufi. Concerning the ‘anatolianising’-style pots, in their vast majority, they represent locally derived Boeotian adaptations. This study does not support the appearance of a brand new potting tradition in Boeotia in late EH II period; it merely suggests the selective incorporation of a broader regional trend into a strong well-defined local culture.

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EARLY HELLADIC II–III POTTERY GROUPS FROM ERETRIA (EUBOEA)

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Central Euboea has been a key area in archaeological discussions addressing issues of connectivity and cultural transmission between the Aegean and Anatolia, or between the islands and the mainland, in the third millennium BC and mainly during Early Bronze II. Beyond the type sites of Lefkandi and Manika, excavations at Eretria (Bouratza plot) have recovered significant amounts of Early Helladic (EH) II–III pottery from levels underlying Classical-Hellenistic buildings. In spite of its fragmentary condition this material deserves special attention as it provides an interesting data set to complement the still unpublished Lefkandi I–III pottery. Furthermore, together with the newly discovered EH III settlement at Aliveri, it offers a rare insight into the EH III phase in Euboea. This paper aims at presenting an overview of the EH II–III pottery groups at Eretria based on a detailed macroscopic study combined with petrographic and chemical analyses using wavelength dispersive X-ray fluorescence (WD-XRF). The main objective is to characterise, both compositionally and technologically, local products at Eretria as well as imported vessels associated with similar or different technologies, and follow transformations in local production and supply through time, shedding light on Eretria's role in local and regional networks during the third millennium BC.

The majority of the EH II pottery belongs to the second part of the period and displays both continental (mainly sauceboats and saucers and two-stage necked jars) and Anatolianising shapes (plates, bell-shaped cups, tankards, beaked jugs) – depata remain unattested in Euboea. EH III is marked by the appearance of grey ware and a new shape repertoire with the predominance of Bass Bowls, tankards and wide-mouthed jars. Despite the evident change through time in the appearance of the vessels, both continuity and innovation characterise different aspects of their production. A diachronic examination of this material shows that both fine and coarse local EH III wares are made with the same fabric and clay paste recipe as those of EH II but clearly differ, in terms of shaping, surface treatment and firing. Furthermore, a significant part of the EH II coarse ware is imported from the western Cyclades or South Euboea, unlike the EH III coarse ware which looks exclusively local. Interestingly, the Anatolianising fine ware of late EHII is made of local clay, while typical central Aegean shapes such as sauceboats appear to be non-local.

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**"ROMANOS-NAVARINO DUNES IN THE PYLIA:
THE EH II SETTLEMENT AND THE CASE OF THE EH II WELL".**

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During salvage excavations (2007-2011) in the area northwest of the modern village of Romanos a previously unknown EH II settlement was discovered and excavated. An EH II well was of particular interest. Presumably as a result of an earthquake, half of the stone-built circular brim and lining of the well's shaft had collapsed and blocked the shaft at a depth of about 3, 5 m below the mouth. Thus the well already had gone out of use during EH II times and the remainder of the empty shaft was quickly filled up with hundreds of complete EH II pottery vessels, some of them unbroken. This pottery assemblage provides for the first time a broader insight into the nature of Messenian EH II ceramic production, the wares and vase-shapes used and potential pottery imports from other regions of the Aegean world. In addition, the filling of the well may not have been a solely profane act, an aspect supported inter alia by the detection of vase forms obviously unusual for normal household purposes.

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CERAMIC TRADITIONS IN SOUTHWESTERN PELOPONNESE DURING THE EARLY HELLADIC II PERIOD: THE ROMANOS PYLIAS CASE STUDY

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The paper sheds light on issues of pottery technology and provenance during the EH II period in SW Peloponnese, a part of Greece which stills remains unknown on such subjects. Since the Romanos Pylias project constitutes the first systematic and integrated technological and provenance analysis of pottery from the SW Peloponnese, it could be encountered as reference study for analogous future research. Meaningful to say that the site of Romanos is the largest so far extensively excavated, Early Bronze Age II settlement at Messenia with a well-organised plan including buildings, workshops, storerooms, streets, wells etc.

The ceramic assemblage to be studied comes from a well and covers a great variety of shapes and surface treatments.. , The high frequency of bowls and basins is striking, complemented by smaller numbers of fruitstands, closed pots, various types of cooking pots and plain pithoi. The repertoire of surface treatments is also rich, including plain, monochrome slipped and pattern painted pots. Yellow-blue mottled ware is quite common, associated with askoi, sauceboats, jugs, and kraters, while Dark on Light (DOL) and Light on Dark (LOD) decorated pots also exist. The first appears in limited amounts and finds parallels in the Attico-Cycladic tradition, while the latter occurs in comparatively high numbers compared to Lerna III (where it is a late phenomenon of the EH II pottery tradition) sharing features with the later so-called Aghia Marina ware of the EH III period.

In order to define the local ceramic fabrics and shed light on aspects of ceramic production, consumption and provenance, an interdisciplinary approach has been adopted for the study of the pottery, complementing the typological and stylistic study with petrographic examination, refiring tests, and chemical analysis, using Wavelength Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometer (W-D XRF). The main issues to be addressed concern the characterization of the local ceramic traditions and its associations with other potting traditions in adjacent or more distant regions, such as the north-eastern Peloponnese, the Attico-Cycladic and the “Anatolianising” ones.

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**EARLY HELLADIC POTTERY TRADITIONS IN WESTERN GREECE:
THE CASE OF KEPHALLONIA AND ITHACA**

Areti Pentedeka,³⁴ Cathy Morgan,³⁵ & Andreas Sotiriou³⁶

Throughout antiquity, Kephallonia and Ithaca were key stations on sea routes between the Peloponnese, central and north-western Greece and southern Italy, comprising the westernmost edge of the Aegean world. Habitation on both islands can be securely traced from the Final Neolithic onwards, continuing essentially unbroken into the Late Roman period. A diachronic large-scale analytical programme was set to assess the exact character of local production, through the mineralogical identification of the different ceramic fabrics recognised macroscopically and the reconstruction of the technological choices made at each stage of the manufacturing process. A total of 404 ceramic samples dating from the Neolithic to Late Roman periods was examined via petrographic analysis and refiring tests, while 87 raw material samples were collected, experimentally processed, and thin sectioned for comparison with the ceramic material.

With special regard to the Early Helladic period, Pelikata on northern Ithaca was the only settlement known dating to this period, until recent rescue excavations on Kephallonia brought to light substantial architectural remains on the EKO property at the southern entrance to the modern town of Sami. The analytical results from a total of 55 EH samples indicate that the prehistoric pottery production (including that of the Early Helladic period) is heavily based on local resources. The raw materials are transformed into durable clay pastes by clay mixing and tempering (in particular grog), as these islands (notably Ithaca) are characterised by sediments which are not suitable for pottery making if unprocessed. Imports were not identified within the analysed assemblage, suggesting the existence of a very strong local tradition and possibly the rather introvert character of the EH Ionian pottery production.

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**POTTERY TECHNOLOGY(IES) IN PREPALATIAL CRETE: THE EVIDENCE FROM THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHAEOMETRIC STUDY**

Yiannis Papadatos³⁷, Eleni Nodarou³⁸

Since the 1980s archaeometric analysis has changed drastically the picture of the Prepalatial period, providing new evidence on its characteristics, its organization, and its complexity.

This communication is a synthetic approach of recent data deriving from the archaeological and archaeometric study of the pottery from sites across Crete. The clay recipes and technological characteristics of the various wares are presented and the co-existence of Cretan and non-Cretan shapes is being investigated. The pottery examined derives from burial and settlement sites ranging in date from the Final Neolithic to the end of the Early Bronze Age.

This integrated approach provides important evidence on the identification of local and imported pottery, the ceramic traditions, and the contacts of Crete with the rest of the Aegean and the Mainland. The ceramic repertoire, the wares, as well as the technological choices raise anew the issues of the organization of production, the distribution of the products, and the identity of the people who produced and consumed the pottery during this early period in Crete.

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