

CLAY ANALYSES OF POTTERY PROVENANCE: SUCCESS ACHIEVED AND FURTHER QUESTIONS WAITING

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Keywords: *North Greek black and red-polished wares, other local workshops in the Northern Aegean and Black Sea, grey-polished and related ware.*

Abstract: *The first part of this note discusses the achievements of the jubilee in analysing the clay sources of main production centres of Greek fine pottery and the second sums up the results of study of the Grey and similar wheel-turned wares in the area of the northern Aegean and the Black Sea, while in the third part the modest results of study of other local glazed and banded classes of pottery, which lacks still similar satisfying analyses, reported in order to turn attention to this field of study.*

First I would like to express my gratitude to my friend for much expertise I gained from him on pottery production and trade links in Northern Aegean, Black Sea, East Greek and Anatolian sites; for the Black Sea and North Aegean especially, where our interests met, and also for his hospitality in Lyon. To many questions he brought sufficient answers in his papers and conference lectures¹, but it would be beneficent if he could also help in the fields of more modest local wares in Thrace and in my Pistiros. The Pistiros Black, Red and Grey wheel-turned wares classified in Pistiros II² had nothing to do with Maroneia and Thasos³, Black Glazed cruder has visually parallels at Pernik at the time of Philipp II, some other classes show links with Olynthus, Eion and perhaps Amphipolis⁴, but without clay analyses these impressions remain only hypotheses.

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¹ For ex. DUPONT 2015.

² BOUZEK 2002.

³ BLONDÉ & PICON 2003.

⁴ BOUZEK 2003.

Grey wares were made across the Dark Age without interruption⁵, and their clay analyses might enable to distinguish particular workshops and their relations to other East Greek fabrics⁶. They also served as models for grey Thracian ware in the inland Balkans⁷. The pseudo-Cypriot amphorae are common at Apollonia⁸, at Olynthus and Pistiros as well (**Fig. 3**, cf. **Fig. 5**) They deserve to be studied, too. Perhaps they were containers of special food, as were the Red Ware amphorae at Pistiros⁹. The plain wares were also exported, and should be analysed¹⁰. The analysis of hand-made wares should also be attempted¹¹ and of various *lekanai*¹². A specific area in NW Pontic served as place from which the wheel-made pottery technique came to the Carpathian cauldron¹³. The analysis of Archaic pottery advanced much¹⁴.

As clear in other fields, like in the area of Hellenistic relief pottery, the main exporters were only few, but nearly everywhere local potters also produced some relief bowls for the local market¹⁵. Especially important might be the analysis of the Mitrovica group of pitchers from Serbia and Bosnia (**Fig. 6**) and of other minor Archaic¹⁶ and later groups, including those serving as containers of specific substances. A number of analyses of specific Archaic to Hellenistic classes of pottery in collaboration with Romanian scholars and Ukrainian and Russian colleagues in the area of the finds from the north-western and northern Black Sea confirmed that fine tableware of diverse provenance travelled; vases were collected, sold or presented as small souvenirs by the captain and the crew, but only as addition to the main cargo, which was different.

While examining one Dutch wreck in Sri Lanka waters anyone was happy to find Chinese porcelain, but the list of cargo in the Dutch insurance company mentioned large amount of tea and spices, and as an annexe some cists of Chinese porcelain. Statistics from the East India Company in London from 1786 to 1789 show that the total proportion of „chinaware” fluctuated between 1.6 and 2.6 % of the total sales of the company¹⁷. The situation in Classical Antiquity was similar, only the trade amphorae with wine were substantial part of the cargo, but of course anyone who had ships could transport anything to any port and the crew could make some extra profit with fine tableware.

⁵ ASLAN 2009; GEBAUER 1993; BAYNE 2000; NIKOV 2009; NIKOV 2014; IREN 2008; KOPYLOV 2009.

⁶ AVRAM et alii (eds.) 2009; BOUZEK & DOMARADZKA 2009.

⁷ ALEXANDRESCU 1978; CRIŞAN 1969; MOSCALU 1983; ROMSAUER 1991; SAMOILOVA 2005.

⁸ PANAYOTOVA 2005.

⁹ Cf. BOUZEK 2007, p. 220, fig. 9.

¹⁰ Cf. ROTROFF 2006; BLONDÉ 2008.

¹¹ KASTANAJAN 1981; BOUZEK 2003; KOPYLOV 1957.

¹² LÜDORF 2000; LEJPUNSKAJA 1980.

¹³ ALEXANDRESCU 2000, p. 138 - 173; COJA & DUPONT 1979; ROMSAUER 1991; cf. VANČUGOV 2004; BOUZEK 2014.

¹⁴ Cf. COOK & DUPONT 1998; DUPONT 1983; DUPONT 2001; DUPONT 2015 etc.; cf. e.g. KERSCHNER 1997; VOIGTLÄNDER 1986.

¹⁵ BOUZEK 2017; DUPONT & LUNGU 2010; VARBANOV 2012; VULPE & GHEORGHÎŢĂ 1976; SÎRBU 2009; TURCU 1976.

¹⁶ BOŽKOVA 2002; CATLING 1998.

¹⁷ BOUZEK 1990, p. 94.

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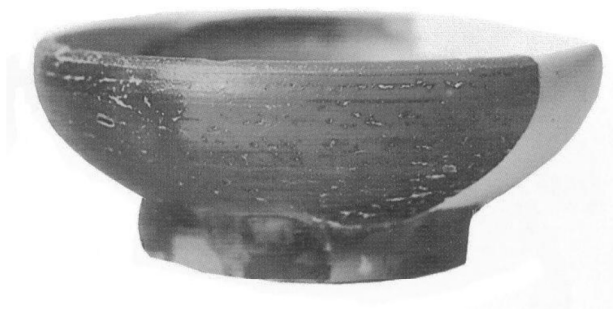
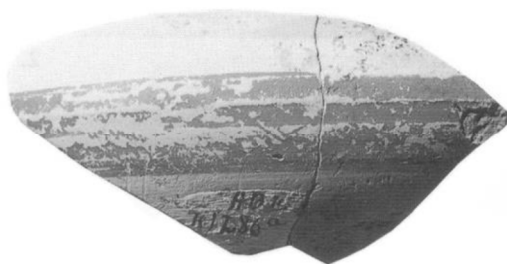


Fig. 1. Bowl of North Greek Black Glazed A fabric from Pistiros.



Fig. 2. Bowl of North Greek Red Glazed A ware from Pistiros.



**Fig. 3. Fragment of pseudo-Cypriot vase with red band on white slip.
Pistiros.**

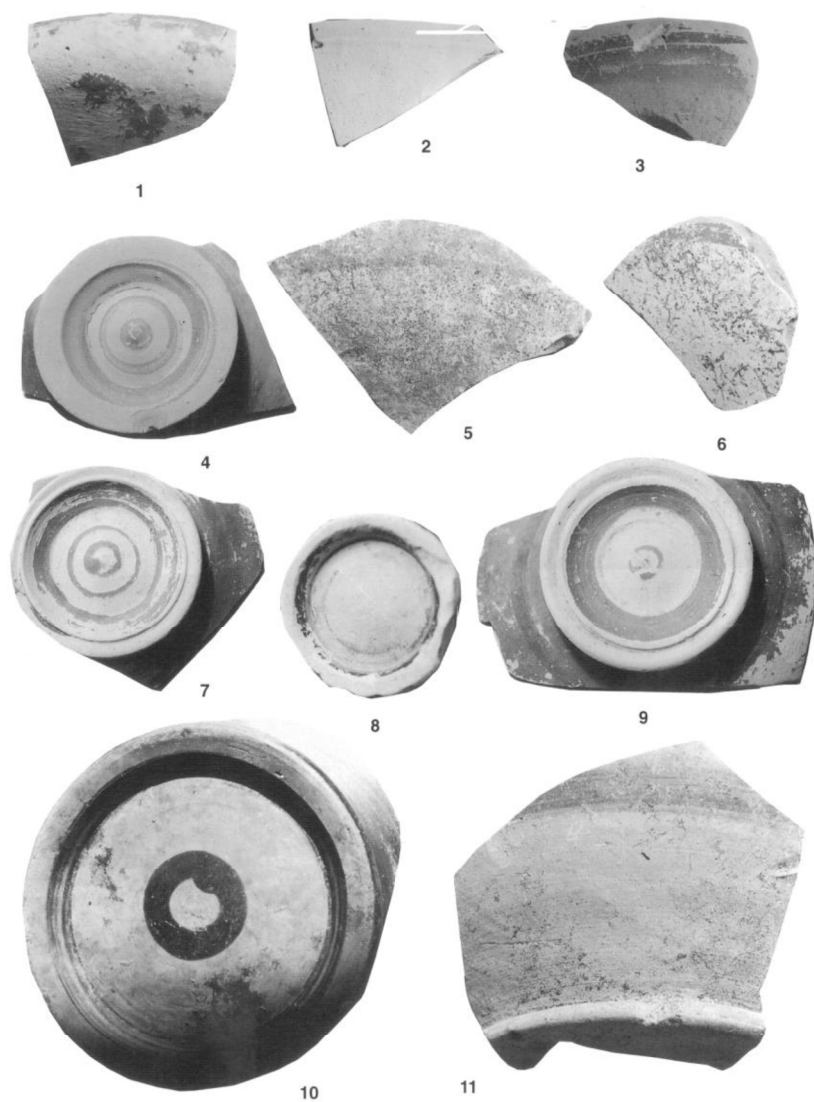


Fig. 4. A selection of grey, bichrome and banded wares fragments from Pistiros.



Fig. 5. Small pseudo-Cypriot amphoriskos in the National museum, Prague, from Kerch.

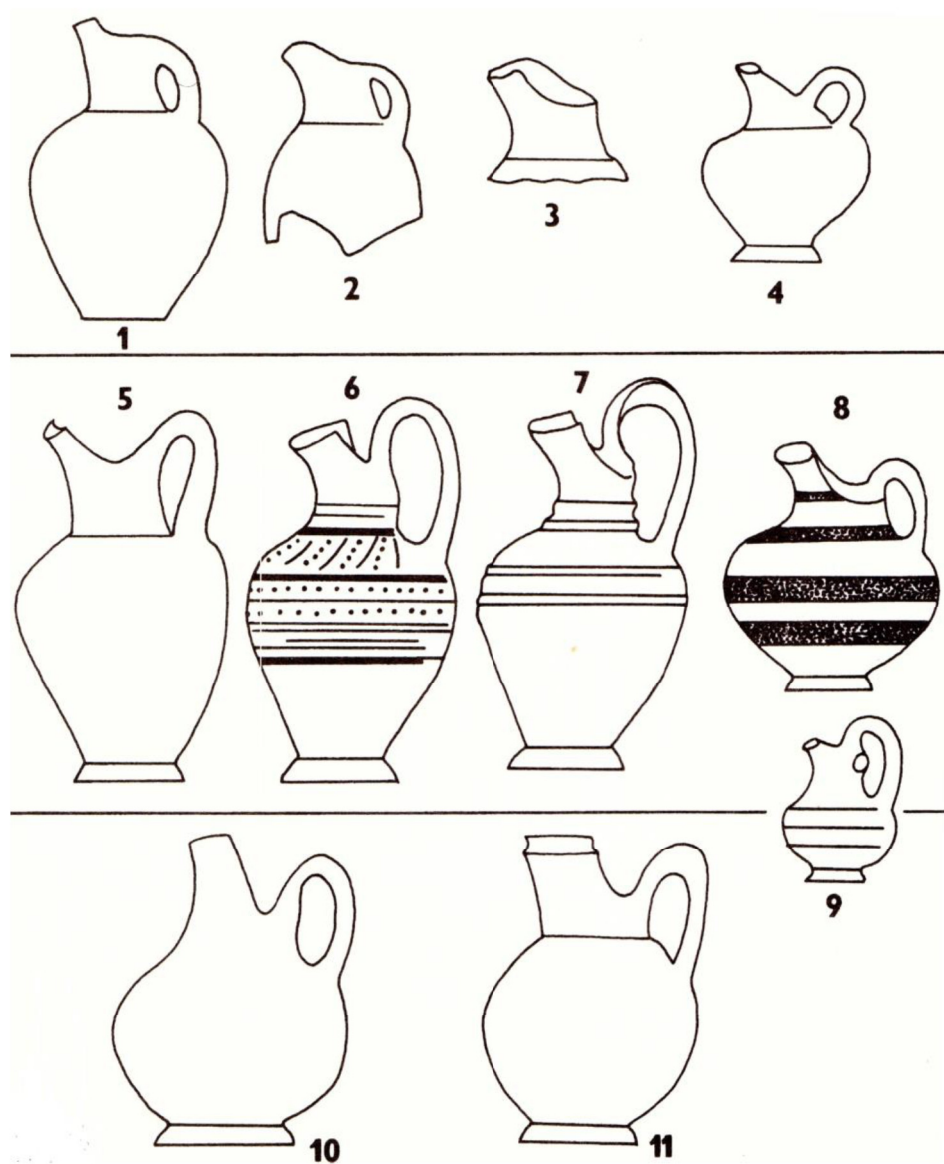


Fig. 6. The Atenica oinochoe (no. 8) and parallels: 1-5 - Corinth, 6 - Kodedas – Berat, 7 - Sindos, 9 - Iisjevo Pole, 10 - Vitsa Zagoriou, 11 - Čimanek (after Parović - Pešikan, and Bouzek 1997).